St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886



For when the **foolish** took their lamps,
they **took no oil** with them,
but the **wise** took
flasks of oil with their lamps.

Matthew 25:3-4

November 8, 2026
Rev. William Bergann**,** *Officiant*
Minister of Music – *Lee Yezek*
Reader: *Jenny Meanwell*
Chalice: *Sue Duran*

ENTRANCE HYMN: ***Awake, my soul, and with the sun (Morning Hymn)*** **(H 11)**

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**
Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP 355)

GLORIA: ***S-277***

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 299)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen*****.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16
The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Wisdom.

12 Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
13 She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
14 One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
15 To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
16 because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,

and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Canticle: A Song of the Love of Wisdom

Remain seated.

The beginning of wisdom *
is the true desire to receive teaching,
and a longing to be taught *
comes from a love of her;
the one who loves her *
will keep her laws.
Observing the laws of wisdom *
assures immortality,
and immortality brings one *
nearer still to God;
so the desire for wisdom *
leads to the authority of one who rules.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Thessalonika.

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that
you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and
rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we
declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of
the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of
command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from
heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the
Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Lo! he comes, with clouds descending (St. Thomas)* (H 58)

All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

All stand.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus said,] [1]"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps
and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]When the
foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their
lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight
there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those
bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your
oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and
for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10]And while they went to
buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet;
and the door was shut. [11]Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'
[12]But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13]Keep awake therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

All stand.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 359)

All remain standing.

***Celebrant**: Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Trusting in God's abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.*

***Leader**: Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission.*
***People**: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader: *God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion.*

Strengthen the bonds within this congregation, and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors

near and far.

People*: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader*: God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless this stewardship campaign, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you.*

People*: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader*: God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy.*

People*: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader*: God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need [especially N.]. Surround them with your healing and your peace.*

People*: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Leader*: God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, confident that they now rest in your embrace [especially N.].*

People*: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Celebrant*: Loving God, you call us into your abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen.***

PRAYERS FOR THOSE ON THE ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST:

Marnie Sheeran, Bob, Anna Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Jim Derik, Evie and family: Beth, Brendan and Corinne, Charlotte, Doug and the Pecora family, Karen, Kathy, Marcia, Sue Sweeney, Michael, Carol, Kate and family, Judy, Barbara, Karen, Marlene, Andrew Ward, John Gallacher, Lisa, Pamela, Elizabeth, Jane, Brooke, David Andrew, Marty Cassidy, Brian, Steve Winter, Chris Bowser.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO RECENTLY DIED:

Ralph Regner, Janet Andrews, Pamela Hilton, Robert Parsons.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
***Amen*.**

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)
All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalm 50:14

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (BCP p. 361)

THE DOXOLOGY V. 3 ***From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th)*** **(H 380)**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant says The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

SANCTUS: S-129 Holy, Holy, Holy

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mark and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: ***Alleluia S-154***

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen*.]

COMMUNION HYMN*: Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Picardy)* (H 324)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: *Rejoice! rejoice, believers (Llangloffan)* (H 68)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People ***Thanks to be God.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 8th to November 15th

Sunday, November 8th
10 a.m.: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Will Bergmann
11 a.m.- 1 p.m.: Grubby Sunday

Tuesday, November 10th
7 p.m.: Vestry meeting on Google Meets. Contact Jean Ellis if you want to join.

Thursday, November 12th
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: St. Mark's Office is Open

Sunday, November 15th
10 a.m.: 23nd Sunday after Pentecost, Rev. Melissa Buono
5 p.m.: Dinner Church

22nd Sunday after Pentecost: Keep awake, the Lord is near.
Joshua calls the people to a moment of decision: Choose this day whom you will serve. The whole sweep of salvation history is the evidence he marshals: the God who brought you out of Egypt, protected you along the way, and drove out your enemies before you is the one who deserves your whole allegiance. Paul writes to a grieving church with words of stunning confidence: Do not grieve as those who have no hope, for the dead in Christ will rise, and we will be with the Lord forever. Amos proclaims, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream." Jesus closes the parable of the bridesmaids with an urgent word: Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour, and the oil of readiness cannot be borrowed at the last moment.

Dinner Church Sunday, November 15, 2026 | 5 PM | Williams Hall
Prayers for Thanksgiving.
Come Join us for Dinner Church at St. Mark's. Dinner Church is an intimate setting to share prayers, conversation, and a meal around the table. Inspired by the early church, Dinner Church is a lay-led service that blends familiar prayers with new reflections and community connection. This month, we'll draw inspiration from the beauty of God's creation. All are welcome! RSVP or send questions to Judie at familyministry@st-mark.org, or just come as you are.

Plenty Good Room: 2026 Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off
November has been designated as Stewardship month, a time for reflection on our blessings and how we might joyfully share what we have in support of St. Mark's. This year's theme, Plenty Good Room, invites us to recognize the abundance that God has entrusted to us. There is plenty good room in God's household for each of us, and good and plenty to share. Even in uncertain times we are called to trust that there is enough: enough for our families, enough for our church, enough for our neighbors.

Our financial goal for 2027 as targeted but the Vestry is $105,000. Your gift of financial support allows us to plan a budget to fund staff salaries, operate and maintain our church building, and support the many ministries in which we participate. Unfortunately, as we are all facing, costs for everything have gone up, and running our parish is no exception. If you have not pledged in the past, please consider doing so for 2027. If you have, please prayerfully consider expanding your gift if you can to help us meet these growing financial headwinds.

There are two ways in which you can submit your pledge:

1. Fill out the pledge form located at the back of the church or received by mail and place in the offering plate, or mail to St. Mark's at 75 Cold Spring Road Westford MA 01886 (attn: Stewardship)
2. Email our confidential email address at st.markspledges@gmail.com

Gifts may be submitted throughout the month of November. Thank you, and together let us rejoice that there is always plenty good room in God's house, and plenty good work for us to do.

Faithfully,
Ellen and Mark Tremblay
2027 Campaign Chairs

Join us for Grubby Sunday
Sunday, November 8th (After service for 1.5-2 hours)

Please join us for a general clean-up on Sunday, November 8th after church. We have the following key objectives:

- Remove leaves, sticks, debris from the grass and parking lot
- Clean up the beds in the front of the building
- Clean the library. We've accumulated a lot of stuff over the years – time to get rid of some of it.

Please bring any gardening tools for flower bed cleanout and yard clean-up (tarps, leaf blower, rakes). We plan to spend about 1.5-2 hours after church.

If you have any questions, either email Michael at oharemichael@yahoo.com or call/text at 617.233.3469.

Sunday School Returns!
Exciting news! Sunday School has launched for the fall. Every Sunday at 10 AM, Children will explore Bible stories and faith lessons through interactive activities, crafts, Legos, games, and more. If you know families looking for an inclusive, fun experience for children, please invite them! For more information, contact Judie Hilton at familyministry@st-mark.org. Growing in faith. Growing in love.

Outreach Opportunities

October Outreach Box: Supporting Merrimack Valley Project
For the month of October our Outreach Box donations will go to the Merrimack Valley Project. MVP is a grassroots, multi-faith, multi-racial community organizing network that develops grassroots leaders, strengthens civic engagement, and builds collective power to advance systemic change for social, racial, and economic justice across the Merrimack Valley.

Help Support Our Neighbors Facing Food Insecurity
Many in our community are struggling with food insecurity due to the high cost of groceries and recent reductions in SNAP (food assistance) benefits. St. Mark's Church invites parishioners to help support our local food pantries during this challenging time. Please consider bringing non-perishable food items, such as canned goods, pasta, rice, or peanut butter, and placing them in the collection basket located in the narthex. Your generosity helps ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. Thank you for your continued compassion and support.

Community Partnership

Make your voice heard. Weekly ICE Protests on Wednesdays
The grassroots organization Bearing Witness @ ICE (multiple links on Google) is continuing protests in front of the ICE detention center in Burlington (immediately behind the Mall) every Wednesday, 11 AM-1 PM. Attendance is now typically 500 and growing. Several St. Mark's parishioners attend every week. If you're interested in carpooling, please contact **Eric Kintner**. Another worthwhile resource for resisting ICE in many different ways is LUCE: https://www.lucemass.org.

Ongoing News

Office Hours: Irina and/or Rev. Bergmann will be in the office on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule an office appointment, please email secretary@st-mark.org or **Rev. Bergmann** at wcbrgm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting is on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. on Google Meet. Contact **Jean Ellis** at seniorwarden@st-mark.org if you would like to join.

Pastoral Care: Would you like to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Need support or assistance? Would you like to speak with a priest? Please email **Rev. Will Bergmann** at wcbrgm2n@gmail.com and **Herb Elliott**, our Pastoral Care team leader at herb.elliott@cheza.com. Alternatively, you can call 978-501-8479. You can also use the "Request Pastoral Visit" button on St. Mark's website.

Want to learn about the symbols of the sacred elements used in the Eucharist?
The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to join them in this critical ministry. The Altar Guild prepares the altar for weekly services, attends to all the linens, sets up & breaks down for a Baptism, Funeral, Wedding, Bishop's visits, etc. They polish the brass & silver. They change out altar linens at each liturgical season, together with decorating the church. Each member has a different reason for joining the Altar Guild, but most of all, we are dedicated to supporting each other and the parish in our spiritual journeys. Please contact Brenda Martin or Elaina Carroll if you are interested. You can also email secretary@st-mark.org.



PRIEST - IN – CHARGE
The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbrgm2n@gmail.com, 978-501-3393

SENIOR WARDEN
Jean Ellis, seniorwarden@st-mark.org, Cell #: 978-758-6299

MINISTER OF MUSIC
Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBERS
Michael O'Hare (Jr. Warden), Scott Hilton (Treasurer), Ellen Tremblay (Clerk), Paul Ackroyd (At-Large), Jenny Meanwell, Chrissy Hemingway (Rental program), Melissa Dewing, Brennan Burks, Brenda Martin (Pre - School Representative), Mahiro Jilesen.

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