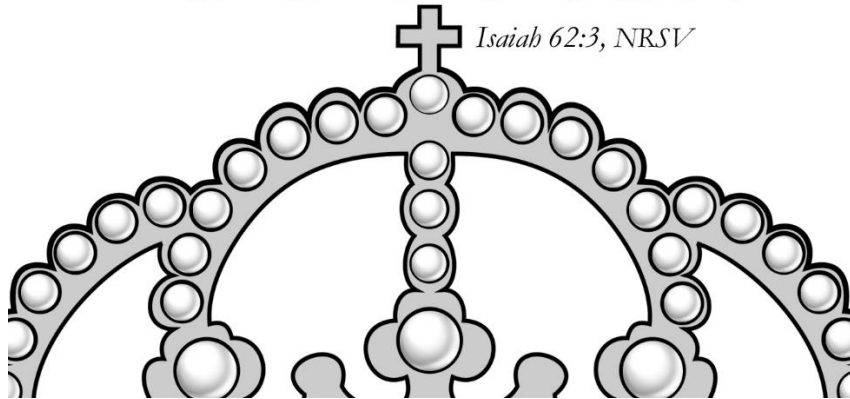


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts*

*You shall
be a
CROWN
OF
BEAUTY
in the hand of
the LORD.*

✝ *Isaiah 62:3, NRSV*



Sunday, January 19, 2025

Morning Prayer

Service leaders – Herb Elliott, Paul Ackroyd

Usher – Rob Strain

Worship Plan for Sunday, January 19, 2025
Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Daily Morning Prayer Rite Two

ENTRANCE HYMN *Bless'd Jesus, at thy word (Liebster Jesu) (H 440)*

OPENING SENTENCE (BCP p. 75)

The Officiant says

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 79)

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**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.**

VERSICLE (BCP p. 80)

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

ANTIPHON (BCP p. 80)

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him' Alleluia'

INVITATORY (BCP p. 80)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The people sit.

PSALM: 36:5-10

⁵Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, *

and your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,

your justice like the great deep; *

you save both man and beast, O LORD.

⁷How priceless is your love, O God! *

your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

⁸They feast upon the abundance of your house; *

you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹For with you is the well of life, *

and in your light we see light.

¹⁰Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *

and your favor to those who are true of heart.

At the end of the Psalm is sung or said

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- ²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
- ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
- ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

FIRST CANTICLE (BCP p. 85)

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Ecce, Deus

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say,*
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The people sit.

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

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SECOND CANTICLE (BCP p. 85)

**Canticle 13: A Song of Praise Benedictus es, Domine
Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34**

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; ***

**on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

SEQUENCE HYMN Immortal, invisible, God only wise (4) (St. Denio) (423)

THIRD READING: John 2:1-11

The people sit.

A Reading from John.

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

HOMILY: BY HERB ELLIOTT

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP P.376)

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God'
Ephesians 5:2

OFFERTORY ANTIEM

THE DOXOLOGY

THE APOSTLES' CREED (BCP p. 96)

Officiant and People together, all standing.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALUTATION (BCP p. 97)

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 97)

Officiant and People

**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.

SUFFRAGES (BCP p. 97)

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

St. Mark's Prayer List

Anna Oliverson, Kate and her family, Fran Fletcher, Elizabeth, Evie and her family Beth, Brendan, and Corinne, Andrew Ward, Christine, Marcia & Ralph Regner, Jane, Lisa, Ben, Ross, Bonnie, Pamela, Bob, Brian Smith, Angela, Lorenz, Ovril, Margaret Bateman, Cathy, Sherrie Carroll, Brooke, Sandra, Charlotte, David Andrew, Sue Sweeney, Daniel Corcoran, Valerie Beleski, Meagan, Michelle Eberle, Mark and Amela, Janet Andrews, Ross, Tracy, Marge, Pam Mark, John Gallacher, Linda O'Donnell, Beth, Jack Winter, Jim and Cheryl, Dan Bray and family, Jim Bargnesi, Deanna Teal, Sabrina and her family

We Pray for those who have recently died

Charles Bray, Francis Hilton, Betty MacNamara

Thanksgiving for healing

James

FIRST COLLECT (BCP p. 98)

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING (BCP p. 101)

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (BCP. P. 209)

**Almighty God, who hast created us in thine own image:
Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make
no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use
our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of
justice in our communities and among the nations, to the
glory of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who
liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH (BCP. 1979, P. 817)

**Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for
this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent.
Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and
mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING (BCP P. 830)

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,
revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord

For our daily food and drink our homes and families' and
our friends)
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think and hearts to love, and hands to serve'
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work and leisure to rest and play'
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering
and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and
promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
*To him be praise and glory, with you O Father
and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM (BCP p. 102)

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING VERSICLE (BCP p. 102)

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING BLESSING

Go in peace and know that in God life is understood and makes sense.

In Christ your life is accepted with all of its hopes and promise.

In the Spirit, you are given the courage to face whatever you have to face-today, tomorrow and then some.

May the blessings of God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of life be with you and remain with you always. AMEN

CLOSING HYMN The great creator of the worlds (5) (*Tallis' Ordinal*) (489)

Announcements

January 19th to January 26th

Sunday, January 19th

10 a.m.: Morning Prayer, Herb Elliott & Paul Ackroyd lay-leader

5 p.m.: Dinner Church, Williams Hall

Wednesday, January 22nd

9 a.m.: Bible study at Johnson's Restaurant, Groton

Thursday, January 23rd

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: St. Mark's office open

7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 26th

10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rev. Bergmann

11 a.m.: Annual Meeting, Williams Hall

St. Mark's Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 26, 2025

The Vestry has set the Annual Meeting for immediately after services on January 26, 2024. We will vote on the new Vestry members, get updates from the committees, review the budget, and celebrate our past and future. Here is a link to the [Agenda for the meeting](#).

This year we will need potluck items for salads and desserts. The entree will be provided by the hospitality committee. If you are interested in helping, contact Judie Hilton at jakhilton@gmail.com.

If you are interested in joining remotely by Zoom, please contact Scott Hilton - seniorwarden@st-mark.org

Dinner Church - Sunday, January 19th- Theme: "Come to me, and I'll give you rest"

Dinner Church is an alternative worship experience based on the traditions of the early church. Participants gather for a meal that also incorporates times of prayer and discussion. The experience is family-friendly, inviting multiple generations to reflect and pray together. All are welcome, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. This month's dinner church is on **Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 5 p.m. Contact Judie Hilton if you plan to attend at familyministry@st-mark.org.**

St. Mark's 60th Birthday Party Recap A Celebration of Our Community

Thank you to everyone who attended the Rededication of St. Marks and the Birthday party in Williams Hall. It was a great opportunity to see old friends and acknowledge the profound impact St. Marks has had on us as individuals and as a faith community. It was awesome having Rev. Marrone and Rev. Bergmann lead us in the Eucharist and Prayers of Rededication.

Special thanks to the team who put together the party in Williams Hall. Here is a summary:

- 58 people attended
- 24 Gifts received totaling over \$5K toward the Sanctuary Lighting project
- Over two dozen Cards were received.
- Many reconnections with former parishioners and a real feeling of community. Several said they might be coming back!
- You can still give a Birthday gift for the Church. Proceeds will go to replacing the Sanctuary lights.
 - Give by sending a check to the church. Please add *60th Birthday* to the memo.
 - Give using the Venmo or Credit Card at st-mark.org/birthday

Occasional Hosts Needed: Paid job!

St. Marks plans to rent Williams Hall to the public to increase rental revenue in 2025. We need a host for the day or evening of the rentals. This person would open up the church, let the renters in, and show them around. At the end of the event, the host would return and make sure everything is ship-shaped and locked up. As part of the fee, the renter will be paying \$50, which will go to the host. We're looking to create a list of interested Host volunteers who will sign up for events as their schedule allows. You don't have to be available every weekend. When we have a renter, we will send out a request for a host, and if you're available, you can volunteer. Please contact Chrissy Hemingway for more information or to put yourself on the list - chrissyhemingway@comcast.net

Outreach For January - Episcopal City Mission.

Our January Outreach box will go to [Episcopal City Mission \(ECM\)](#). ECM is a Social Justice agency of the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Edwin Johnson was our supply priest on December 15th. Edwin is the Director of Organizing and works with congregations to gather support for Social Justice initiatives both in Boston and throughout the Diocese. ECM has given grants to the Merrimack Valley Project for their Social Justice initiatives across the Merrimack Valley. Eric Kintner has been very active in MVP for years. Please give generously.

Keep the plastic coming!

St. Mark's is partnering with Trex Company to help the environment while enhancing the local community by turning plastic bags into a bench that will be installed at one of the Westford public beaches.

Eligible plastic items include shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, cereal box liners, bubble wrap, produce bags, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, Ziploc and other reclosable bags, and plastic wrap that surrounds something like a case of water bottles. Plastic must be clean, dry, and free of food and organic residue. Plastic can be dropped off at the collection bin in the Narthex. For more information, contact dorothygaumer@gmail.com.

St. Mark's 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 wcbgrm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting will be on **Monday, January 13th**, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Scott Hilton for a link if you would like to join.

Ongoing Ministries

St. Mark's Bible Study meets every other week on Wednesdays at a local restaurant to discuss the lectionary readings for the week. New members are welcome! If you'd like to join, e-mail Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com, and he will add you to the email distribution and send you the readings.

Food Collection - a reminder that we collect food in the wicker basket in the Narthex all year long. The need is constant, so if you have non-perishables and personal care items, please feel free to put them in the basket.

Pastoral Care: Want to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Just want to talk to a priest? Please email or call Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com or call 978-501-8479. Herb heads up our Pastoral Care team and can have you added to the prayer list, arrange for a Pastoral Care team member to give you a call, send a card, or organize other support. Herb also has contact information for local clergy who have offered to respond to Pastoral Care needs. You can also use the "Request Pastoral Visit" button on St. Mark's website.

News from our Friends at Trinity Chapel

Theology in the Tavern - Wednesday, January 29th - 5:00 pm

Join our friends from Trinity Chapel at the Theology at the Tavern. A time of discussion and good food downstairs at the Bull Run Restaurant.

This month is a discussion of HATE - What is it? What should you do with it?

PRIEST - IN – CHARGE

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbgrm2n@gmail.com, 978-501-3393

SENIOR WARDEN

Scott Hilton, wscotthilton@gmail.com, Cell #: (978) 302-1088

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBERS

Tom Ellis, Jr. Warden; Joan O'Hare, Treasurer; Herb Elliott, Clerk; Paul Ackroyd, At-Large; Chrissy Hemingway, Pre-School Representative; Melissa Dewing, Dorothy

Gaumer, Kris O'Reilly, Ellen Tremblay, At-Large.

St. Mark's Website: www.st-mark.org

Email: secretary@st-mark.org

Phone: (978) 692-7849

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stmarkwestford

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeCL->