

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

# Presentation



of our  
**Lord** in the Temple

**February 2, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
Rev. Melissa Buono, *Officiant*  
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*  
Usher and Reader: *Kris and Jim O'Reilly*  
Chalice: *Elaina Carroll*

**ENTRANCE HYMN: *Sing we of the bless'd Mother (Rustington) (H 278)***

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And Blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**GLORIA: S - 277**

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)**

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

**Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**  
*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 84**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
<sup>2</sup>The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, \*  
 by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
 my King and my God.

<sup>3</sup>Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
 They will always be praising you.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

<sup>5</sup>Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
 for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

<sup>6</sup>They will climb from height to height, \*  
 and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

<sup>7</sup>LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
 hearken, O God of Jacob.

<sup>8</sup>Behold our defender, O God; \*  
 and look upon the face of your Anointed.

<sup>9</sup>For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
 and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
 than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \*  
 he will give grace and glory;

<sup>11</sup>No good thing will the LORD withhold \*  
 from those who walk with integrity.

<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, \*  
 happy are they who put their trust in you!

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN: *Hail to the Lord who comes (Old 120th) (H 259)***

*All stand.*

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

*All stand.*

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

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

**THE SERMON – REV. MELISSA BUONO**

**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.*

*The Celebrant and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and<sup>[SEP]</sup>humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

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

**Let us pray for our own needs and others.**

**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, Deanna Teal, Sabrina and her family, Susan and Kate, Gil Melanson, Marion Perrault, Shelly Wadsworth.**

### **WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED**

**Charles Bray, Francis Hilton, Betty MacNamara, Diane, Gill.**

### **WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE WHO WE HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR WHO HAVE HEALED OR GREATLY IMPROVED**

**James**

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

**PRAYER FOR THE PARISH** (*said by all*)

**Almighty and ever living 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.**

**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**

## The Holy Communion

### 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

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

#### The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

*Celebrant*           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.**

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

#### SANCTUS: S-129

*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.*

*The Celebrant continues*

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 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 forever. *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: S-154**

### INVITATION

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*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: O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ (The Eighth Tune) (H 25)**

### 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 forever. *Amen.*

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN: Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates (Truro) (H 436)**

### DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **February 2nd to February 9th**

*Sunday, February 2nd*

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

*Wednesday, February 5th*

9 a.m.: Bible Study with Trinity Chapel, Johnson's restaurant Groton.

4 p.m.: St. Pauls Meal

*Thursday, February 6th*

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

7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

*Sunday, February 9th*

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

### **St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Volunteer Opportunities**

The next soup kitchen is on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**. We will be serving our popular meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, salad, dessert, bread, and milk. If you would like to be added to the sign-up for donations, email Paul Ackroyd at [phackroyd@verizon.net](mailto:phackroyd@verizon.net). Drop-off is at St. Mark's (outside the admin wing - right-hand side of the building).

### **Election of New Vestry at Annual Meeting**

Thanks to all who attended the 2025 Annual meeting. Together, we reviewed the church programs, presented the balanced budget approved by the Vestry, and the parish elected new Vestry members—Melissa Dewing (returning at-large), Ellen Tremblay (Clerk), Rob Strain (Jr. Warden), Brenda Martin (at-large), and Mahiro Jilensen (at-large). In addition, Ellen and Mark Tremblay were elected as Diocesan convention representatives for St. Marks.

We also celebrated the service and leadership of Tom Ellis, Herb Elliott, and Dorothy Gaumer as they rotated off the Vestry. Please give thanks to these three when you see them.

Copies of the 2024 Annual Report are available in the Narthex and online at [st-mark.org/about](http://st-mark.org/about).

### **Support for Bishop Budde's message for Mercy and Compassion.**

As we discussed at the Annual Meeting, this is a time when we, as a faith community in the Episcopal tradition, must be a welcoming, compassionate and supporting community to those who are struggling, in fear, or in need. Bishop Budde from the National Cathedral brought these Christ-centered callings to the nation's consciousness at the Inaugural Prayer service. If you want to read more - here is the letter of support posted by our Bishops from the Massachusetts diocese— [LINK](#)

### **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](mailto:chrissyhemingway@comcast.net)

### **Outreach for February and March - Food Pantries**

During February and March, we will be collecting donations for the Westford Food Pantry and Loaves and Fishes. In addition, we will be doing a food drive as part of our Lenten season. These organizations have been the long-term focus of Chocolate for Charity and we would like to support them through our outreach box.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@st-mark.org) or Rev. Bergmann at [wcbgrm2n@gmail.com](mailto:wcbgrm2n@gmail.com) or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting will be on **Monday, February 10th**, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



St Mark's Episcopal Church  
@stmark75



**PRIEST - IN – CHARGE**

**The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, [wbrgm2n@gmail.com](mailto:wbrgm2n@gmail.com), 978-501-3393**

**SENIOR WARDEN**

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

**MINISTER OF MUSIC**

Lee Yezek: [lyezek@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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