

Please be seated

Communion of the People

At Holy Communion, all baptized Christians are welcome to receive. The bread is received in the open palm. Gluten free wafers are available upon request; ask the priest when at the altar rail. The wine may be taken from the cup by drinking (placing your hand on the base to guide it) or by “intinction” (dipping the bread). If you wish to participate but do not want to receive the bread or wine, simply cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need assistance to the altar rail or if a priest may bring the elements to your pew.

Communion Anthem – Simple gifts trad. Shaker song, arr. Aaron Copland

’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free, ’tis the gift to come down where you ought to be. And when we find ourselves in the place just right, ’twill be in the valley of love and delight. When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed; to turn, turn will be our delight, ’till by turning, turning we come round right.

Words and music traditional Shaker song, arrangement © Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

Communion Hymns sung by all

Be thou my vision (Slane) Hymnal 488

Eternal light, shine in my heart (Ach bleib bei uns) Hymnal 465

Sending out of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors (when applicable)

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that [those to whom you go] may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.

Congregation **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Please stand

Prayer for Mission said by all BCP 365

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

Hymn in Procession sung by all

Thy kingdom come! (St. Flavian) Hymnal 615

Dismissal BCP 366

Postlude – Sonata No. 2: Allegro maestoso e vivace Felix Mendelssohn

Music Notes

Soloist – Doug Allison

Our opening hymn “Jesus lives!” reflects themes from today’s reading from Romans, and “The Christ who died” quotes it, while “O for a closer walk with God” links with the psalm “Be thou my vision”, with its second verse, “Be thou my wisdom...”, reflects Solomon’s request for understanding in the reading from 1 Kings, as does the second communion hymn “Eternal Light”. And finally, our closing hymn “Thy kingdom come!” fits with Jesus’s parables about the coming kingdom in today’s Gospel reading.

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from One License lic. #A-732869 and CCLI lic. #20201141.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Children’s Chapel

A Children’s Chapel, including music and a story, is offered for all potty-trained 3-year-olds through 3rd graders during the service. To participate, children simply follow the cross in procession to the McCarty Early Learning Center after the reading of the Gospel and then return as a group during the Peace.

Nursery and Restrooms

A **nursery** is available during the service for children through age 2. It is located in the McCarty Early Learning Center across the circular drop off west of the church. **Restrooms** are located in the church office building south of the church.

Sunday Classes for Adults and Children

Sunday classes for adults and children are on break for the summer, except for Christianity Today which meets at 11 a.m. in Grace House.

GIVING INFORMATION

Offerings can be put in the plate or text SMJAX to 53555 or scan QR code →

PLEDGE

To make a 2026 pledge scan QR code→

Worship Participants

We thank God for those leading worship and pray that all will be blessed in our service today.

Lectors	Randy Gordon, Brooks Whittaker
Acolytes	Ann Commander , Carson Bechan, Peyton Bechan, Lucy Perkins, William Rachels
Chalice Bearers	Leah Miller, Mary Claire Miller, Marcia Simmons, Jess Simmons
Ushers	Randy Thornton, Jack Ball, Tim Sleeth
Verger	Downing Nightingale
Altar Guild	LEV Carol and Jim Rountree Drew Haramis, Anne Gorman, Celeste Heller, Barbara Irving, Adrienne Kent, Bunny Manning, Stephanie Milne, Katherine Smithwick, Carol Worsham
Flower Guild	Fran Moulder, Mary Dudley White, Stuart Stokes

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

*Please contact the church office to donate and dedicate altar flowers.



St. Mark’s Episcopal Church Vision

St. Mark’s is a missional church built at the headwaters of the Gospel where the life and light of Christ flow into our community, our city, and God’s world. (Ps 46:4-5)

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St. Mark’s Episcopal Church Mission

To cultivate generations of servant-leaders rooted in God’s Word and nurtured by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the world.



St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

A River of Grace. A Life Abundant.

Welcome! We are delighted to have you join us for worship today! Newcomers, please complete a Connect Card (located in the pew in front of you) so that we can get to know you better. Regular attendees, please use this same card to ensure we have your current contact information. Please note that all page numbers listed in the bulletin preceded by BCP refer to the red Book of Common Prayer in the pews. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Hymn numbers preceded by an “S” (service music) are found near the front of the hymnal.

Information on childcare, restroom locations, and educational offerings is on page 6.

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026 - Holy Eucharist - Rite II - 10:00 a.m.

Prelude – Sonata No. 3: Andante tranquillo Felix Mendelssohn

The Word of God

Please stand

Hymn in Procession sung by all

Jesus lives! (St. Albinus) Hymnal 194

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity BCP 355

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

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

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria sung by all musical setting: Hymnal S 280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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6

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated

First Lesson – 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm – 119:129-136 simplified Anglican chant sung by all chant: J. W. Meachen

129 Your decrees are / wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my / heart.
130 When your word goes forth it gives / light; *
it gives understanding to the / simple.
131 I open my mouth and / pant; *
I long for your com/mandments.
132 Turn to me in / mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your / Name.
133 Steady my footsteps in your / word; *
let no iniquity have dominion / over me.
134 Rescue me from those who op/press me, *
and I will keep your com/mandments.
135 Let your countenance shine upon your / servant *
and teach me your / statutes.
136 My eyes shed streams of / tears, *
because people do not keep your / law.

Second Lesson – Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things

work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Sequence Hymn sung by all

The Christ who died (St. Magnus) Hymnal 447

Holy Gospel – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel reading potty-trained 3-year-olds through 3rd graders are invited to follow the cross to the chapel for Children’s Chapel as the congregation sings “Jesus loves me”.

Sermon – The Rev. Charlie Holt

Please stand

Nicene Creed BCP 358

Prayers of the People – Form VI BCP 392

Confession BCP 393

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

O for a closer walk Eric Thiman

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav'nly frame, a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb! Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast. The dearest idol I have known, whate'er that idol be, help me to tear it from thy throne and worship only thee. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Words by William Couper © Public Domain; music Eric Thiman; © H. W. Gray Co., Inc.

Please stand

Offertory Hymn – The Doxology sung by all Hymnal 380, verse 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

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.

The Celebrant continues...

Sanctus sung by all

musical setting: Hymnal S 125

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

After the Sanctus you may stand or kneel for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Lord’s Prayer said by all

BCP 364

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.

Fraction Anthem sung by all

musical setting: Hymnal S 154

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.