

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**May 18, 2025
8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 N. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
www.stmarksgpr.org
616.456.1684

Welcome to St. Mark's!

... a vibrant community of faith, which has gathered for worship since 1836 and in the current building since 1848. If this is your first visit with us, know that we are delighted you are here. Please introduce yourself and be sure to sign our guest sign-in sheet in the foyer and/or fill-out a Information packed from a welcome folder inside the lobby podium.

Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday— 9 a.m. to noon.

Weather Policy: St. Mark's will post closures to WZZM 13, WOOD TV8, Facebook and our website by 7:00 a.m. or as soon as possible. The decision on afternoon and evening activities will be made separately, posted by noon.

Reserved Accessible Spaces: There are three shorter pews, two in the north transept and one on the north side of the nave. Please only sit there or in the adjoining pews if you have assistive devices or need of extra space.

Safety: The outer doors to the Parish House will be locked fifteen minutes after Services begin with a security guard on duty to be of assistance. Please pay attention to the nearest exit in the Sanctuary. In an emergency, an announcement will be made and children will be ushered to a designated place for safety away from the Church complex.

Parking on Sundays: Limited parking is available in the Parish Lot. If you are able, please consider not parking in the Parish Lot to reserve access for those less mobile. Consider the free metered parking on Pearl, Ionia, Lyon, Fountain and other streets near the church, the Kendall Lot across the street when the gate is up, the upper levels of the GRCC building on Fountain Street (only until 2 p.m.), and the Ellis Parking Lot at 210 Ionia just west of Lyon Street. For the Ellis Lot: vouchers for free parking on Sundays are available from an Usher (must be used with original parking ticket).

Rest Rooms are located on the main level of the Parish House under the exit sign at the top of the Foyer ramp. More rest rooms are available on the second level of the Parish House, if you are able to use the stairs.

Weekly Worship and Prayer at St. Mark's: Eucharist on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays at noon from September through May. Compline (Night Prayer) on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. via Facebook.

Sunday School: We offer children's and youth formation, including Make a Joyful Noise with Mr. Alex, from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Nursery care for children under kindergarten is available from 9:15 a.m. through the 10:30 a.m. Service. For more information please contact Jeff Brown, Director of Faith Formation, at jeffb@stmarksgsr.org.

Youth Ministry: Grand Rapids Episcopal Youth: G.R.E.Y. is a joint youth ministry between St. Mark's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches for grades 6-12. We have regular formation gatherings during the school year and service as well as social activities throughout the year. Our Director of Faith Formation is Jeff Brown, jeffatgrey@gmail.com.

Adult Formation Ministry: *Adult Forums* are offered on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at different times of the year. *Episcopal 101: An Inquirer's Journey* is offered yearly for adults especially those seeking Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church or to Reaffirm one's faith. A multi-year seminar, *Education for Ministry* (EFM), is offered during the program year: contact Doug Karsen for more information at karsendc@gmail.com.

Breakfast Café Ministry: A program to nourish our neighbors with a hot meal every Saturday at 8:15 a.m.. If you would like more information and to possibly volunteer, please contact Judy Freeman at judyfw@comcast.net.

Land Acknowledgment: St. Mark's recognizes that our property sits on land of the indigenous people of the Three Fires. It is our privilege to occupy this land while recognizing and acknowledging with sadness the deep wounds created many years ago by our forebears.

eNews: For the fullest expression of St. Marks' activities, get the weekly eNews in your email or from our homepage.

Cell Phones: We ask that you silence your cell phone; if you are on call, please turn it to vibrate.

St. Mark's Staff

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector
The Rev. Jan Gockerman, Deacon

Pam Stevenson, Finance Manager
Kate Assarian, Administrative Associate
Dr. Gregory Crowell, Director of Music
Jeff Brown, Director of Faith Formation
Alexis VanZalen, Organ Scholar

Mike Armour, Operations Manager
Ronnie Hammond, Sexton
Craig Mosley, Sexton Associate, Video
Marquice Jackson, Weekend Sexton
Jamie Interrial, Security Representative
Eric Gable, Webmaster

The Gathering of the People

Prelude — Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

Wilber Held

Introit — March

Edward Jobe

St. Mark's Bell Choir

Welcome

Gathering Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 296: We Know that Christ Is Raised

Engelberg

Salutation for the Easter Season

Presider: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Presider: Let us pray:

People: **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 (*Bells ringing.*)



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace— to his peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al - might-ty God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry Lord Je-sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the
Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer, For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,—
you a-lone— are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most— High, Je - sus
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the glo - ry of God—the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect

Deacon: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Deacon: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading (*You may sit.*)

Acts 11:1-18

Lector I: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

Laudate Dominum

(Prayed responsively by half verse at 8 a.m. Antiphon intoned by the choir and repeated by all at 10:30 a.m.)



Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.

Antiphon

Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.

Antiphon

Let them praise the Name of the Lord; *
for he commanded, and they were created.

He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Antiphon

Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;

Antiphon

Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;

Antiphon

Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.

Antiphon

Let them praise the Name of the Lord, *
**for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.**

He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants, *
**the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!**

Antiphon

The Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

Lector II: A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

John 13:31-35

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

***People:* Glory to you, O Christ.**

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

***People:* Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Hymn (*continued*) — Blue Hymnal No. 577, v. 3: God Is Love

Ubi caritas

Homily (*You may sit.*)

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector

The Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of the People (*You may stand.*)

Lector I: As we celebrate this Season of Easter, we ask God to hear our prayers with our response: O God, hear us. During the periods of silence I invite you to add additional prayers either silently or aloud.

O God: We pray in thanksgiving for all those gathered here today. We pray for St. Mark's and our many ministries. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons: Sean, Presiding Bishop; the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes; Bonnie and Rayford, Bishops of Michigan and Northern Michigan; Moises, Bishop of the Dominican Republic and Craig, ELCA Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod; Camp Chickagami and Episcopal Youth Camp, McKenzie Knill, Bill Fleener and all of the staff, volunteers and campers attending this season. We remember the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

- Lector I:* For the President, Congress, our Governor, our judicial system, our Mayor and for all in authority, that they may be people of justice, integrity and truth. We pray: **O God, hear us.**
- Lector II:* For the good earth which God has entrusted to us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it. We pray: **O God, hear us.**
- Lector I:* For the poor and the oppressed, the unemployed, the homeless, refugees and for all who seek a better way of life. We pray: **O God, hear us.**
- Lector II:* For those who suffer from any grief or trouble. Give us grace to respond to the needs of those in distress, especially those who suffer because of hatred, racism, bigotry, violence and war. We pray: **O God, hear us.**
- Lector I:* For our newly called rector and family, in this season of new life for our St. Mark's community. We pray: **O God, hear us.**
- Lector II:* For those who celebrate birthdays or anniversaries this week. Bless them with joy and well-being. We pray: **O God, hear us.**
- Lector I:* For all those on our Parish Prayer List, our military personnel, the sick, all those for whom we have promised to pray and those we now name silently or aloud. *(Pause to add additional names silently or aloud.)* We pray: **O God, hear us.**
- Lector II:* For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection. May they rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them. *(Pause to add additional names.)* We pray: **O God, hear us.**
- Lector I:* For what else or whom else shall we pray today? *(Pause.)* We pray: **O God, hear us.**
- Deacon:* For all these prayers we have named aloud and those which lie deep within our hearts. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

The Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Presider and People:

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

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

The Peace

Presider: May the peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

People: And always with you.

Presider: Respectfully, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Announcements

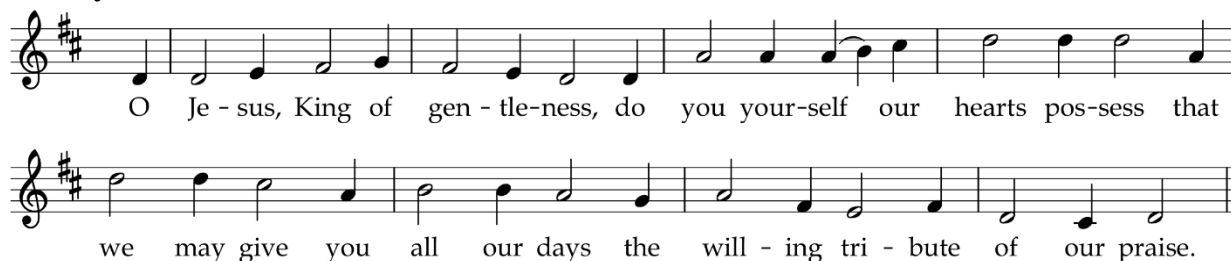
The Liturgy of the Table

Reception of Gifts

Offertory Music — Come We that Love the Lord

Claudel Bass

Presentation Hymn



The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I (BCP)

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

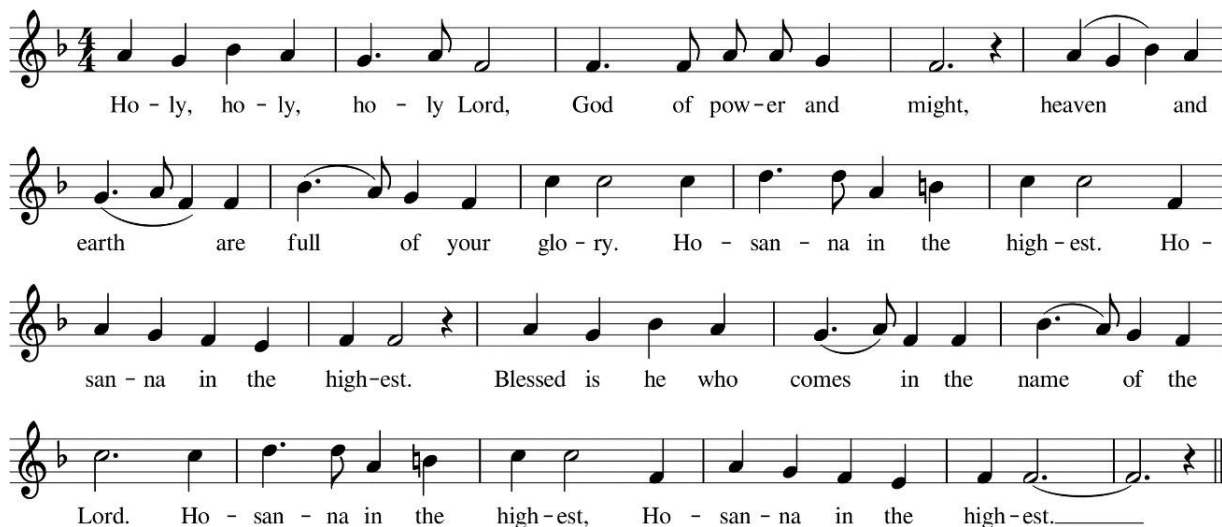
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Richard Proulx



Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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.”

Presider: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. †Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

†Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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

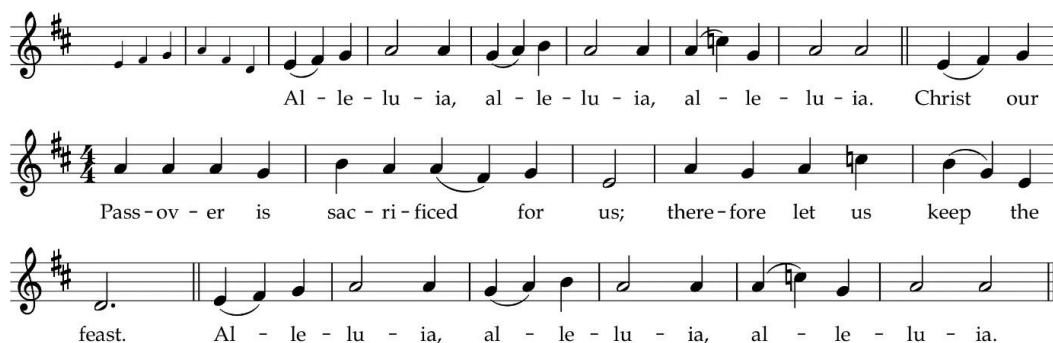
Presider: Let us pray the Lord’s Prayer in whichever language or version you prefer.

(Traditional) 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.

(Contemporary) Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Spanish) Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre; venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy el pan de este día y perdona nuestras deudas, como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores y no nos dejes caer en la tentación mas libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Reception of the Sacrament



Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

People: **Let us take them in remembrance that Christ died for us and feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.**

Instruction for Receiving Communion

All are invited to receive Holy Communion which contains both consecrated bread and wine. An intinction cup with consecrated wine is available. Gluten-free consecrated bread without wine is also available upon request. Please follow the guide of the Ushers to receive the Sacrament at the communion rail by filling in from right to left. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your hands over your chest. All are welcome at the Table of the Lord.

Healing Prayer: *When present in the South Transept, healing ministers offer a brief and simple prayer.*

Communion Music — Faith of Our Forebears

Susan Berry and Janet Van Valey

Post-Communion Prayer (*You may stand.*)

Presider: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Holy God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Solemn Easter Blessing

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us children through the resurrection of the Son, Jesus, the Christ, bestow upon us the riches of Christ's blessing. **Amen. Alleluia!**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make us holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen. Alleluia!**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring us to our eternal inheritance. **Amen. Alleluia!**

†And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us forever. **Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Hymn of Sending Forth — Blue Hymnal No. 304: I Come with Joy

Land of Rest

Sending Forth

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, alleluia, alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude — Allegro maestoso

Eugene Thayer

Thank you for being with us today. We are all invited to participate in St. Mark's tradition to remain seated until candles are extinguished and the postlude has ended. Then please join us in the Parish Hall for further fellowship.

The St. Mark's Prayer List

Contact the church office to add names to the prayer list. Names may be removed after one month unless requested.

The Sick and Other Needs

Alissa Almonte
Dave Atkinson
Jayne Austin
Sally Bowie
Christopher Brewer
Ed Cox
Cullen Davies
Ellyn Davies
Derby Family
Terry Dusendang
Margaret Lara
David Leach
Kathryn Marmion
Laura Maslonka
Jackie McCarthy
Chris McClain
Jean McCormick
Carmela McIntire
Goebbert-McIntire Family
Bill Nasser
Ed Nicholson
Rich Oehrl
Marilyn and Ron Oom
Joe Pinto
Linda Radke
Chris Reale
Michael Reale, Sr.
Julie Renauldo
Bea Rocco
Javier Ronquillo
Beverly Roye
Dan Scripsema
Meghan VanderMale

Sue Allen
Susan Andrews
Nita DeGraaf
John Gracki
Jennifer Julius
Mary Rollins
Irene Savara

In Military Service

B.G. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA
PV2. Cailen Donahue McLea, USA
Spc. Henry Dykema, ARNG
Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF
Col. Todd Murray, USAF
2LT. John Nicholson, USA

Members of the Vestry

Ben Busman, Sr. Warden
Judy Freeman, Jr. Warden
Emily Krueger, Clerk
Gloria Lara, Treasurer
Steve Bell
Scot Gogle
Laura Kozminski
Penny Larsen
Dan McDonald
Carmela McIntire
Rex Miller
Michael Reale

Search Committee

Bob Brower
Doug Busman
Nancy Dodge
Karen Hunter
Carmela McIntire
Shawn Miller
Heather Tafel
Darren Walhof
Tom Woudstra,
Chaplain

Postulant for Holy Orders

Thon Deng

Candidate for
Holy Orders
Cathy Stevens

Offerings and Multiple Ways to Give to St. Mark's

Place check or cash in the offering plate

Electronic giving (email pams@stmarksgr.org)

Vanco Mobile App from any mobile device:



Pay by text – text 616-205-9714 from your phone to send a payment

Mobile App Square Cash – Cashtag: \$stmarksgr Web address: [cash.me/\\$stmarksgr](https://cash.me/$stmarksgr)



Mail a check to the church

Online at our website at www.stmarksgr.org through PayPal

Remember St. Mark's in your estate planning (A brochure is available at the Welcome Desk.)

Gifts or transfer of stock

Church Spotlight: Book Swap, Today! Parish Life is hosting a book swap for all ages. A table will be set up in the Parish Hall before the Social Hours. Whether or not you brought a book to share with our community, feel free to take a few books home with you. Any remaining books will be donated.



Parish Notes

Welcome! Guests, please sign the book in the front lobby. Fill out the new parishioner information sheet (in the lobby podium) to get name tags, receive weekly eNews or officially join the St. Mark's Family in Faith.

Confirmation and Reception: Last Saturday, four of our participants from the recent Episcopal 101 course were confirmed or received into the Episcopal faith. Join us in celebrating Jon Hiskes, Jake Solomon, and Bryan and Catherine Molloseau! We proudly recognize all course graduates: Madison Crume, Joe Granger and John LoPorto, Jessica and Josh Harris, Jeff and Stacey Martin, Madeleine Snella and Erik Westenbroek-Alar.

Annual Diaper Drive, This Month: This is the fifteenth year St. Mark's has collected diapers for pantries that serve families in need. As you travel to the store, please consider adding a pack or two of diapers. Please also consider the larger sizes. Kent County pantries are only able to meet 50% of the need for diaper sizes four, five and six. Collection boxes will be at the Sanctuary doors for the rest of May. St. Mark's has made a difference in our community and led the way for other churches to do the same.

United Thanks Offering (UTO): We've collected just under \$600 for this year's UTO, which is amazing! If you still have a Blue Box, please bring it in by May 25th so we can send a check to UTO. Many thanks!

Memorial Day: Nursery Care, but not Sunday School, will be offered May 25th. The church closes May 26th.

Calling All Graduates! Graduate Recognition and Celebration, June 1st: Graduation recognition will take place during the 10:30 a.m. Service and Social Hour. We'd love to recognize those heading to middle school, high school, college, and those graduating with advanced degrees. By Wednesday, May 21st, give Kate and Jeff your graduate's name, grade level, the school they attended and if they will attend a different school.

Baptisms on Pentecost, June 8th: The next opportunity for Baptism will be on All Saints' Day in November.

Celebrating Fr. David, June 8th: We will celebrate Fr. David with a festive reception during the Social Hours after both Services. As a congregation we have been blessed by Father David serving as our Interim Rector for nearly two years! Saint Mark's has continued to thrive under his prayerful guidance and leadership. As is our tradition, we are collecting monetary donations for a "purse" which is a departing gift for Father David. Please consider contributing towards this effort, prior to Father David's final Sunday with us. Donations can be placed in the lock box on the inside of the half wall in the front desk area, mailed to the church Attn: Pam Stevenson, or submitted using the Cash App or Paypal options listed on the previous page of this bulletin. Be sure to include "Gift for Fr. David" on the memo line or comment box.

Solarize GR Event, June 17th, 7:00 p.m.: The Creation Care Ministry at St. Mark's is hosting an informational event for Solarize GR. This City of Grand Rapids initiative brings homeowners together to save money on solar by buying in bulk. The more people who each buy solar, the better their discounts, with a minimum of 5%. If you are considering adding solar to your home or just want to learn more about it, save the date and join us. Register via the eNews link or contact Steve, steven.mark.mulder@gmail.com, with any questions.

Supporting the Brewer Family: Parishioners Chris, Rachel and their two sons have been in our prayers for a few months as they navigate medical difficulties. There is a sign up for a meal train linked in our eNews.

Social Hour Hosts: Thank you to all our hosts. Bringing refreshments (reimbursable up to \$75 with receipts) for either Service, and/or serving and overseeing hospitality after the 10:30 a.m., supports church fellowship.

Weekend Sextons: If you haven't already, please welcome our temporary staff Cristian, who goes by "C".

Rector Announcement: With unanimous support of the Vestry, Father Jedediah Fox has answered our call to be Saint Mark's next Rector. He was raised to ministry in the Diocese of Montana and comes to us from the Diocese of Olympia, Washington. Join us in offering Rev. Fox and his family a warm welcome — and in thanking our dedicated Search Committee. Fr. Jed's first Sunday with us will be July 20th. Thank you, *Vestry*