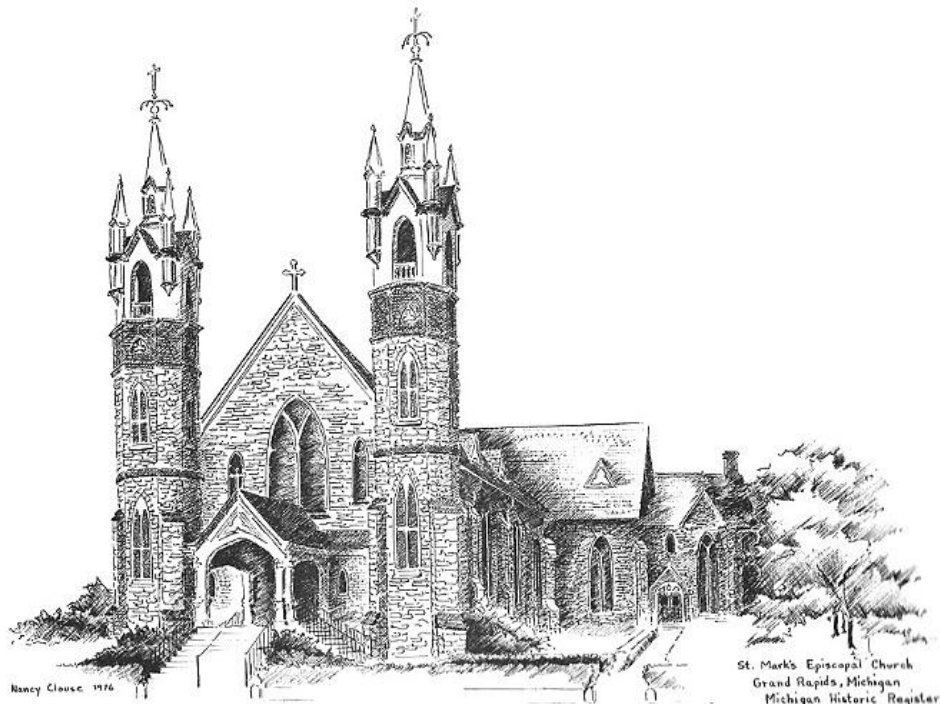


The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The World's Day of Creation
September 1, 2024
8:00 and 10:30 a.m.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 N. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
www.stmarksgr.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 Visitor's Welcome Card. Also, please take a welcome folder on the Welcome Desk.

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: Note, there are three designated spaces for those with assistive devices or in need of extra space, two in the north transept and one on the north side of the nave. Please, leave those spaces available and the adjoining pews for family members.

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. Upon leaving a restroom, please wash hands with warm soapy water and sanitize. Please, pay attention to the nearest exit in the Sanctuary. An announcement will be made in case of an emergency. Children will be ushered out of the building 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, a Greeter or on the Resource Table in the north transept (must be used along 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. Additional rest rooms are located on the second level of the Parish House; those able to use stairs are encouraged to use upper-floor restrooms.

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 and Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. via Facebook live. All are always welcome!

Children's Ministry: Sundays, we offer children's formation during 10:30 services. This includes formation, nursery care and church school. Please contact the church office.

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 youth in grades 6-12. We have regular formation gatherings during the school year and service as well as social activities throughout the year. Please contact our Director of Youth Ministry, Jeff Brown, for more information: 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. Please, contact Doug Karsen for more information at karsencd@gmail.com.

Breakfast Café Ministry: A program to nourish our neighbors with a hot meal, is at 8:15 a.m. every Saturday. 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.

St. Mark's eNews: For the fullest expression of St. Marks' activities, see the weekly eNews in your email or our website.

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

St. Mark's Full-Time* and Part-Time 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 – Sonata in D Minor: Allegro, Adagio

Gottfried Finger

Nancy Yagiela, viola da gamba

Welcome

Gathering Hymn – Blue Hymnal 423: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

Prayer of Invocation

Presider: Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

All: **God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation. (*A pause is observed for reflection*)

All: **Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Presider: Let us offer praise to God.

Gloria

Frank E. White

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, He is the might - y King, mas-ter of
ev'r - y thing. The cap-tain of my soul, the u-ni - verse con-trol, God is the one
true ex-pres-sion of life. He's the cre - a - tor, a great cre - a - tor,
Hea - ven and earth His great-ness pro - claim. The cap-tain of my
soul, the u - ni - verse con-trol, ho - nor and ma - jes - ty se-cond to none.

Collect

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Hebrew Reading (*You may sit.*)

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Lector I: A reading from the Song of Solomon.

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.

Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10

Eructavit cor meum

Lector I: Let us pray the Psalm responsively by half verse.

My heart is stirring with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; *
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

You are the fairest of men; *
grace flows from your lips,
because God has blessed you for ever.

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, *
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you *
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, *
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; *
on your right hand is the queen,
adorned with the gold of Ophir.

The Christian Reading

James 1:17-27

Lector II: A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Hymn – Red Hymnal 138: Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Negro Spiritual

The Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

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

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?"

He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily (*You may sit.*)

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: Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, "Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace."

Lector I: For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

All: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Lector II: For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

All: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Lector I: For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

All: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Lector II: For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

All: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Lector I: For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your creation we do not understand or welcome, that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray:

All: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Lector II: For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures, that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

All: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Lector I: O God, bless all bishops, priests, and deacons: Michael, Presiding Bishop; Sean, Presiding Bishop-Elect; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; 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. We pray:

All: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Lector II: O God, bless all deacons in the dioceses; Linda Crane and Beth Drew, Archdeacons; Building Bridges Committee Members; St. Martin of Tours in Kalamazoo and its Rector, Mary Perrin. We remember the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola. We pray:

All: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Lector I: For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

All: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Lector II: For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need, especially those on our Parish Prayer List, and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:

All: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Lector I: For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray:

All: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Lector II: For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet, we pray:

All: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Presider: O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

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

Announcements

Labor Day Prayer

The Liturgy of the Table

Reception of Gifts

Offertory Music – Saraband

Philip Hacquart

Presentation Hymn

8:00

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

10:30

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be -
 low; O praise him, al-le - lu - ia! Praise God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise
 Fath-er, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. O praise him, O praise him, Al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The Invitation

Presider:

Friends in Christ, the table of bread and wine is now made ready.
 It is the table of company with Jesus and all who love him.
 It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world with whom Jesus identified himself.
 It is the table of communion with the earth in which Christ became incarnate.
 Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer I (BCP)*

Presider: God is with us.

People: **God is present here.**

Presider: Rejoice! Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift our hearts to the Most High.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to offer thanks and praise. We do praise you, our intimate God, the one who is with us, and with all of creation, the source of this magical, mystical, sensual, beautiful, earth. From microbes to whales you have created all of us. We are privileged to be a strand in all of your creation, including this strange and wonderful home, our earth, the open sky above, the dazzling array of stars and planets, and the unfathomable galaxies beyond us. You have blessed us with a world of infinite variety and beauty, a land of mountains and meadows, canyons and valleys, deserts and jungles. Over and through this land you have provided oceans teeming with life, streams and rivers, crystal clear lakes, and cascading waterfalls. We share this land with all of your creatures, from mosquito to mountain lion, from seal to scorpion. You have formed all of this, this land of such intense wildness and beauty. Therefore, we praise you, O Sacred One, joining our voices with the cry of your animals, the rocks, the stars, the Moon, the Sun, and all the universe as we shout with joy:

Sanctus (*Spoken or sung*)

David Hurd

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Presider: We bless you and thank you Gracious God for all these gifts, and for weaving us, the web of humanity, into this world. But instead of caring deeply for this most perfect of creations, the universe beyond our comprehension and this earth in which we live, we have rebelled against it, against ourselves, against You. We disregarded the interconnected web of life in which we live. Instead of loving it as a mother loves her child, we put ourselves above it, as if it was something we could own. It became something to control rather than a part of us and a part of you. Each time you have called us back, called us to understand that we are not masters of the earth, but instead a part of the earth. You continually remind us that caring for you means caring for your earth and for each other.

All: Then, All-Holy God, you sent Jesus Christ to be among us. Through His incarnation, You taught us that You are always with us and all of the world. He showed us the way to grace and freedom, and how to show compassion to each other and the world. He gathered a people as your own and filled us with longing for justice and peace for all of creation. Keep us ever vigilant to follow his example so that we may bring about Your reign that He opened for us, through his life, his death, and his resurrection. It is a reign where all your creation will be one.

Presider: On the night before he died, Jesus came to table with those he loved. Recalling his own actions of feeding the poor and eating with the outcast, he took bread, gave thanks to You, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me." When supper was ended, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to You, and passed the cup among his friends and said: "Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, do this in memory of me."

Presider: Therefore, let us pray:

All: Gracious God among us, help us to feel your presence, and give us the strength to serve your creation and your people this day and every day.

Presider: Now gathered at your table, God of Creation, and remembering what Jesus Christ taught us, we offer to you this bread and this wine, a gift of your creation and work of human hands. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, O Sacred One. May they become for us the Body and Blood of Christ, just as we, your people, are that same Body. Breathe your Spirit upon us also and upon the entire earth. Make us one with your earth, so that all of Creation may become one with your Body.

All: Bring all of us, from every clan, tribe, and nation together, to feast upon your abundant banquet, prepared from the fruits of your earth and made possible by the redemption of your Christ.

Presider: Through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the entire Universe, all glory and honor to God and Creator, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

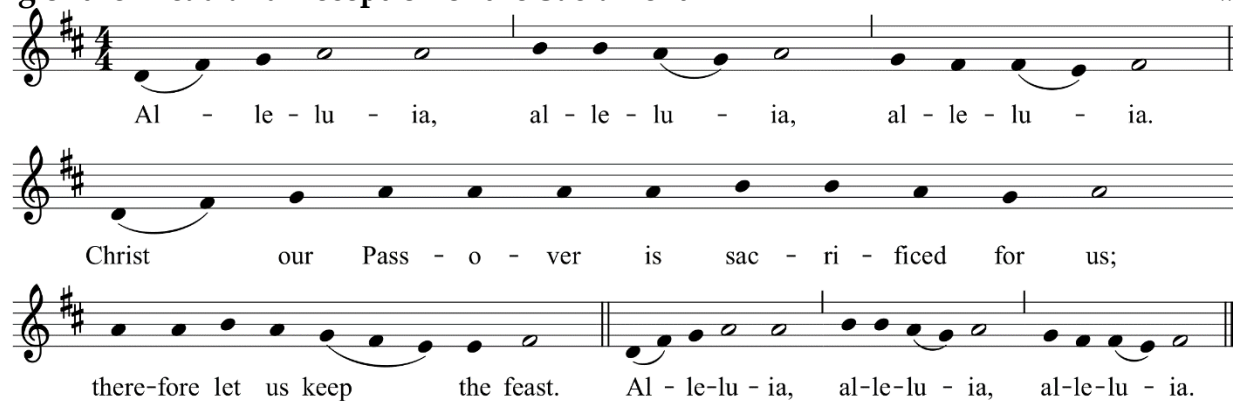
(Traditional) Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 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

David Hurd



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

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: *As is our tradition, all are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. Following the distribution of consecrated bread, please feel free to dip your host into consecrated wine offered in a cup for intinction. Gluten-free consecrated bread is available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, come forward with hands crossed over your chest. Please follow the Ushers' direction to the communion rail and fill in from right to left. 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.*

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

Presider: Let us pray:

All: **Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, renewed, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider: May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of God's hand. And may God bless us, †Father, Son and Holy Spirit this day and forever more, we pray:

All: **Amen.**

Hymn of Sending Forth – Blue Hymnal 556: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Marion

Sending Forth

Priest or Deacon: Our Worship has ended – now our Service begins.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude – Praeludium in G minor

Nicolaus Bruhns

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

This Sunday's altar flowers are given by Jeanne Howell, in loving memory of Fr. Joe Howell on the 10th anniversary of his passing.

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

David Abbott
Alissa Almont
Dave Atkinson
Jayne Austin
Barb Balser
Sally Bowie
Ed Cox
Terry Dusendang
Ruth Hammond
Bill Isenberg
Jennifer Julius
Gary Leonard
Jeffrey LoTempio
Kathryn Marmion
Laura Maslonka
Chris McClain
Doris Molina
Bill Nasser
Ed, Chris Nicholson
John Oatley
Joseph Pinto
Nora Quillen and family
Chris Reale
Bea Rocco
Javier Ronquillo
Meghan VanderMale
Marilee Wexstaff

Sue Allen
Susan Andrews
Nita DeGraaf
John Gracki

Irene Haizman
Mary Rollins
Irene Savara
Roma Warmington
Jean Zylstra

In Military Service

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

Members of the Vestry

Dawn Buller, Sr. Warden
Judy Freeman, Jr. Warden
Brian Topolewski, Clerk
Gloria Lara, Treasurer

Jon Anderson
Ben Busman
Laura Kozminski
Emily Krueger
Penny Larsen
Dan McDonald
Carmela McIntire
Amy Richards-Duncan

Search Committee

Bob Brower
Doug Busman
Nancy Dodge
Karen Hunter

Penny Larson
Shawn Miller
Heather Tafel
Darren Walhof
Jackie Yam

Postulant for Holy Orders

Thon Deng
Cathy Stevens

Prayer for the Transition

Holy Spirit of God, so many come to our Parish for a sense of home. The consistency and constancy of our community provides a special peace, a haven. Now, our Parish family faces a change which may be frightening or discomfoting. We ask for calm and an openness to hear every voice. May we remind ourselves and one another: We are in God's hands. We ask for Shalom—balance, patience and peace. May we find our hearts strangely warmed by this process. May we find strength, joy and endurance. Amen. ~ *Laura Kozminski*

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

During the summer months, we kindly ask for your continued support through pledges and offerings. Additionally, the financials are available for your review on the bulletin board. Thank you for your ongoing support of St. Mark's mission and ministry!

Parish Notes

Welcome! Guests, please sign the book in the front lobby. Fill out a Welcome Card (inside the podium) to get a name tag, receive weekly eNews or officially join the St. Mark's Family in Faith.

Parish Picnic Sign-ups: Can you contribute a side, salad or dessert for our shared meal? Please add your name to the list at the Welcome Desk *or* through the link in the eNews. Start finding your favorite recipes!

Lectors Training: Are you interested in becoming a lector? There will be a lector training on September 15th after the 10:30 a.m. service. Please contact Deacon Jan, jangoc@mac.com.

Support Affordable Housing, by September 12th: Together West Michigan's Affordable Housing Team invites you to take another small action with a big impact. We've closely followed local Messiah Baptist Church's work to create an attractive, community-oriented, affordable housing development – a little “village” of 51 apartment units and 20 for-sale units -- along Eastern Avenue north of Burton Street. This requires special land use approval from the City of Grand Rapids Planning Commission. What can we do? We can email letters of support, preferably by September 10th, and we can show up at the hearing.

See eNews for project details and a sample letter you can use. Be sure to address yours to the Grand Rapids Planning Commission, at planning@grcity.us. The public hearing takes place on Thursday, September 12th, at around 12:30 p.m., with this item first on the agenda. It is held in the City Commission Chambers of City Hall, 300 Monroe Avenue NW, with validated parking in the Government Center Ramp beneath City Hall.

21st Annual Mayors' Grand River Cleanup: Thank you to all who registered for our team. If you have not yet notified Jeff and Anne, jeffatgrey@gmail.com and alhiskes@gmail.com, do so now so they can finalize plans.

Sharing the Bounty Walk, October 6th, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars! This is a major fundraiser for St. Mark's Breakfast Café and Westminster's Downtown Food Pantry. It is a 1.5 mile guided walk through the Heartside neighborhood. Our goal is to get 20 walkers and double the amount of pledges raised last year. Please join walkers from LaGrave CRC, Westminster Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Fountain Street Church and St. Andrew's Cathedral. Sign up sheets will be available early in September.

Side Altar: You are invited to use the side altar for individual prayer. It is now located toward the back of the church, instead of within the children's area, to make both spaces more conducive to their distinct uses.

Additional Parking is available in the GRCC ramp across from the public library, using the Fountain Street entrance. Parking is free, without needing a pass, until 2:00 p.m. Cars in the lot at 2:00 p.m. will pay to exit.

Update on the Building Renovation Project: We are very happy to report significant news about our project. As we have been in the phase of gaining public and some lead gift support, we have received a challenge lead gift from Phyllis Rood, the late Dr. Robert Rood and their family. With their pledge and revenue from the State of Michigan and the church, we are at the 3 million dollar mark, which is over half way to the goal. This is all prior to launching the official Capital Campaign. This is truly a springboard for the success of our project and the future of St. Mark's.

Vestry Person of the Day: Bring your questions or ideas to the Welcome Desk, to Dan McDonald or Brian Topolewski after the 8:00 a.m. Service, or Dawn Buller after the 10:30 a.m. Service. Parishioners can attend Vestry meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. or review minutes on the bulletin board.

Church Spotlight

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| September 11th | Open Table partnership for local college students resumes, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Midweek Eucharist resumes at noon |
| September 15th | Welcome Back Sunday, with choir |
| September 22nd | Annual Parish Picnic in the Social Hall |
| October 13th | Anniversary Dinner at Kent Country Club |
| October 18th – 19th | “First” Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, Mt. Pleasant |