

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



May 3, 2026

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II (Expanded Language)

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn

Father we praise thee, now the night is over

Blue Hymnal - 1

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Gloria

1. Glo - ry to you, _____ Lord
God of our fa - thers; _____ you are wor - thy of praise;
glo - ry to you. _____ 2. Glo - ry to you _____
_ for the ra - di-ance of your ho - ly Name; _____ we will
praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. _____
3. Glo - ry to you _____ in the splen - dor of your
tem - ple; _____ on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to
you. _____ 4. Glo - ry to you, _____ seat - ed bet -
ween the Cher - u - bim; _____ we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

Descant

5. Glo - ry to you, be -

5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the

hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of

depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to

hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you,

you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther,

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will

Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you Glo - ry to you!

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

The Collect

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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.

People: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

¶ *All are seated.*

A Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In te, Domine, speravi

¶ *At 8:00 am, the Lector and People read the psalm responsively by half verse.*

¶ *At 10:30, the choir sings the psalm.*

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant,*
and in your loving-kindness save me.

A Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Lector: A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

¶ *All are invited to stand.*

The Gospel Hymn

Praise the Lord through every nation

Blue Hymnal - 484

¶ *Verse 1 is sung before the Gospel.*

The Gospel

John 14:1-14

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

People: † Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him,

“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Gospel Hymn

Praise the Lord through every nation

Blue Hymnal - 484

¶ Verse 2 is sung after the Gospel.

¶ All may be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Jedediah Fox, Rector

¶ All are invited to stand.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Lector: Let us pray for the Church and for the world; for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; the Church of North India; for Sean, the Presiding Bishop, the Diocese of Delaware and Kevin, its Bishop; for Anne our Bishop Assisting and the Standing Committee of the Diocese; St. John's of Otter Lake, its Ministry Team and Rev. Joanne St. Pierre; St. Mary's Church of Cadillac and its Rector, Radha Michel-Trapaga; and for all ministers and people. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

¶ Silence

Lector: Risen Lord

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

¶ Silence

Lector: Risen Lord

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

¶ Silence

Lector: Risen Lord

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

¶ Silence

Lector: Risen Lord

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

¶ Silence

Lector: Risen Lord

People: Hear our prayer.

Lector: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

¶ *Silence*

Lector: Risen Lord

People: Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Confession of Sin

¶ *The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

¶ *Silence may be kept.*

¶ *Minister and People*

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We are truly sorry, and repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

¶ *The Celebrant stands and says,*

Almighty God have †mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us share Christ’s peace with one another.

¶ The Celebrant continues with the prayer

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus

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.

¶ The People may kneel or stand.

¶ The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

¶ *Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

¶ *The Celebrant continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be †filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Mark, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People:



The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray in the language of our heart,

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.

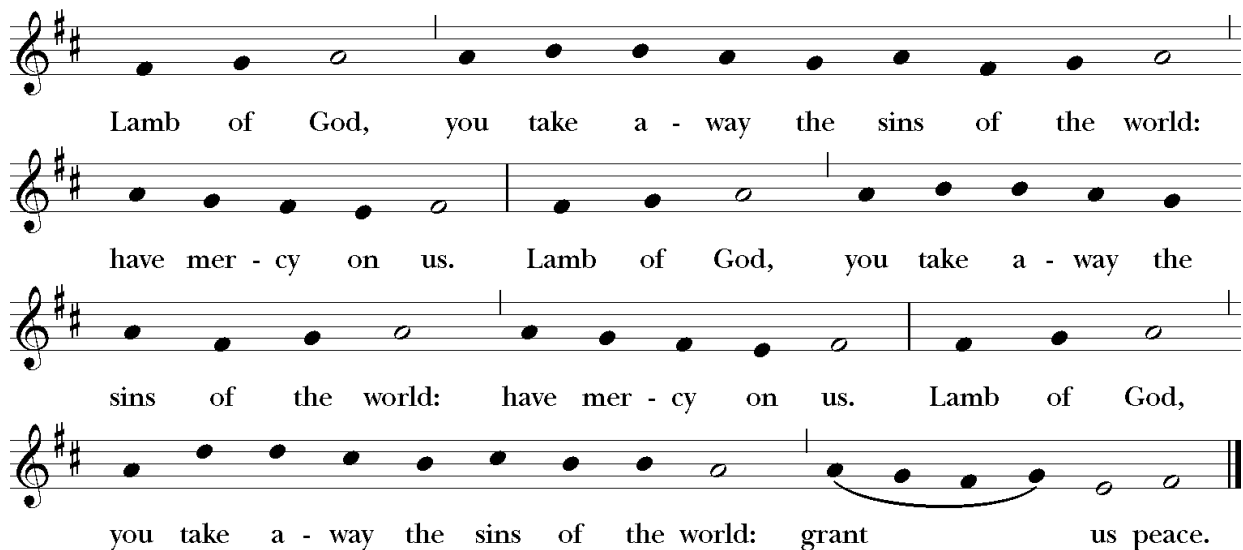
Spanish Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre; venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy el pan de este día y perdona nuestras deudas, como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores y no nos dejes caer en la tentación mas libranos del mal. Porque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

The Breaking of the Bread

¶ *The Celebrant breaks the bread.*

¶ *A period of silence is kept.*

The Fraction



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation and Communion:

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

People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

¶ *The People sit.*

¶ *All God's people invited to God's Altar. Follow the Usbers' direction to the communion rail and fill in from right to left.*

¶ *You may receive either the Common cup or by intinction (dipping). Indicate your desire for intinction by holding up your host after it has been given to you. You may indicate your desire to drink from the common cup by consuming the host immediately after it is given to you. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

¶ *If you do not wish to receive the Communion, you are welcome to come forward receive a blessing. Indicate your desire by crossing your hands over your chest.*

¶ *Reception in one kind at Communion (either bread or wine) is reception of the fullness of the Eucharist.*

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

Communion Hymn

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

Blue Hymnal - 487

Post-Communion Prayer

¶ *All are invited to stand.*

¶ *The Celebrant says,*

Let us pray.

¶ *Celebrant and People,*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

¶ The Celebrant blesses the People saying

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and †God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and for ever more.

People: Amen.

Hymn

Christ is made the sure foundation

Blue Hymnal - 518

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

Carillon on "He Rose"

Callahan

*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.
Then join in the Parish Hall fellowship.*

The St. Mark's Prayer List

The Sick and Other Needs

Alissa Almonte
Jayne Austin
the family of Sallie Bowie
the family of Ed Cox
Margery Dickinson
Doug Karsen
Carmela McIntire, Phil Gleason
Kelly Muschiana
Bill Nasser
Allyson Nichols
Audrey Nowak
Linda Radke
Jeanne Reale
Mark Schuurmans
Becky Swift
Mark and Debra Udey
Meghan VanderMale
Roger York

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

In Military Service

B.G. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA
SPC. Cailen W. Donahue-McLea
Spc. Henry Dykema, ARNG
Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF
PFC Kayla Gilardi
Amn. Jayden Karsen, USAF
Cpt. Charles Lewis, USAF
Col. Todd Murray, USAF
2LT. John Nicholson, USA

Members of the Vestry

Ben Busman, Sr. Warden
Rex Miller, Jr. Warden
Emily Krueger, Clerk
Gloria Lara, Treasurer
Steve Bell
Christina DeKoekKoek
Scot Gugle
Rich Hiskes
Cindy Kok
Carmela McIntire
Michael Reale
Michael York

Postulant for Holy Orders

Thon Deng

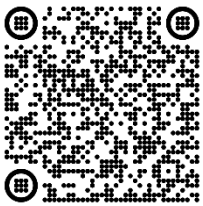
Offerings and Multiple Ways to Give to St. Mark's

Place check or cash in the offering plate

Mail a check to the church

Gifts or transfer of stock

Remember St. Mark's in your estate planning. (A brochure is available on the Sanctuary Resource Table)



Scan the QR code to give.

Spotlight

Inviting all Newcomers to an event just for you! If you are new to St. Mark's within the past year, we'd love to host you for springtime snacks and conversation on Sunday, May 17th from 2-4pm in the Canterbury Room (just off the fellowship hall). For any questions or to RSVP with number of attendees and any dietary considerations, contact Kate in the church office, officeadmin@stmarksgr.org or 616-456-1684.

Announcements

Expanded Sanctuary Loop Audio System! We are delighted to hear about the loop's positive impact on multiple folks' worship experience. It covers both sides of the center aisle – and now the North Transept! We'd hoped to add the South Transept but are limited by crawl space access below. Anyone with a telecoil hearing aid or cochlear implant can connect by switching on the telecoil "T" mode. Anyone else can borrow a loop receiver with headset.

Meal Train for Peter and Laurie Braswell, who are about to have a second baby: <https://mealtrain.com/zmng0d>.

15 Minute Diocesan Survey and Focus Groups: This spring, the diocesan staff has been engaged in conversations about the relationship of spiritual practices and a focus on discipleship to congregational health and growth. They believe strongly that the work of forming disciples is vital to the church on every level: individual, parish, diocesan, and beyond. As diocesan staff, we understand our role to be equipping local leaders and parishes to engage in that vital work. To that end, we are conducting a short research project to better understand what supports spiritual and discipleship growth and parish vitality across our diocese. We'd love for you to be part of it. Two ways:

1. The survey takes about 15 minutes and asks about the spiritual practices that matter most to you, what drew you to your parish and keeps you there, and what your parish's life together feels like. There are no right answers. We want your honest experience. Your responses are completely anonymous. The survey does not collect your name or email address. The survey will be open through May 31st. Enter to win a swag prize pack of hat, pride item and more.
2. We are also hosting a small number of focus group conversations in May and are looking for participants. Each group will meet once on Zoom for about 60–75 minutes, facilitated by two members of the diocesan staff. Groups will have 6–8 participants. All focus group participants willing to share their name will receive a swag item of choice.

Hacked Email: Thanks for disregarding any staff emails with "invitation to bid." We are not soliciting contractors.

West Michigan Bike MS Breakaway, June 6th-7th. From our member Erik: The Multiple Sclerosis Society holds many events to raise awareness and money to help end MS. If anyone is interested in joining our biking team, ride options are 30, 50, 75 or 100 miles on Saturday and (optional) 30 or 50 miles on Sunday. Riders are required to raise at least \$250 each. Register for \$60 before May 6th, a small fee considering what you get for it: 3 meals each day, snacks and support along the ride. To join the team, volunteer, or donate, go to events.nationalmssociety.org/2520. Direct questions to Erik by text or e.bloomquist70@gmail.com.

Building Project: As you can see, we are making steady progress on the new north entrance and elevator. We anticipate completing this step of construction in late May or early June. Please watch for an announcement and plan to attend the dedication, which will make our church accessible and welcoming in a tangible way. To talk with a campaign cabinet volunteer, contact: Bob C., Nancy D., Kate D., Judy Freeman, Gloria L., Jim L., Jackie T., Marc.

Feeding America Food Truck, May 7th, at our partner Gerald Ford Academic Center. Could you or someone you know use free food items? All are welcome. Volunteers needed 4-6 pm: contact Scot, s.gugle@comcast.net.

Annual Diaper Drive Begins May 10th: Any diapers, especially size 3+, will be gratefully received for a local pantry.

All Staff and All Ministries Meeting, May 27th, 3-5 pm: An in person meeting to plan the upcoming program year.

Graduate and Formation Volunteer Recognition, May 31st: Submit graduate names to jeffatgrey@gmail.com.

Spring cleaning? Consider donating gently used jeans, t-shirts, socks, tennis shoes, and backpacks, as well as new underwear and toiletries. Sign up at the Welcome Desk to help monthly or as an occasional substitute. Thank you.

Seeking "Waste-Not" Ambassadors: coordinate with Steve, steven.mark.mulder@gmail.com.

Supporting Dr. Nicolas Fletcher: Thank you for contributing to and sharing the link for gofund.me/6696577a1.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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www.stmarksgr.org
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... a vibrant community of faith, gathered for worship since 1836.

St. Mark's Staff

The Rt. Rev. Ann Hodges-Copple **Bishop Assisting**
The Rev. Jedediah Fox **Rector**
The Rev. Jan Gockerman **Deacon**
Pam Stevenson **Financial Manager**
Kate Assarian **Administrative Associate**
Jeff Brown **Director of Faith Formation**
Mike Armour **Operations Manager**
Dr. Alexis VanZalen **Interim Organist**
Alex Williams **Interim Director of Choirs**
Ronnie Hammond **Sexton**
Craig Mosley **Sexton, Videographer, Photographer**
Cristian "C" Bartolo **Sexton**
Eric Gable **Webmaster**

St. Mark's recognizes that our property sits on land of the Indigenous peoples of the Three Fires: Anishinaabe, Odawa and Bodéwadmi. It is our privilege to occupy this land while recognizing and acknowledging with sadness the deep wounds that continue to exist by that occupation, and we pray and work for reconciliation.

Cover Art: *Christ at the well of Sychar*, Rembrandt van Rjis, c. 1654.