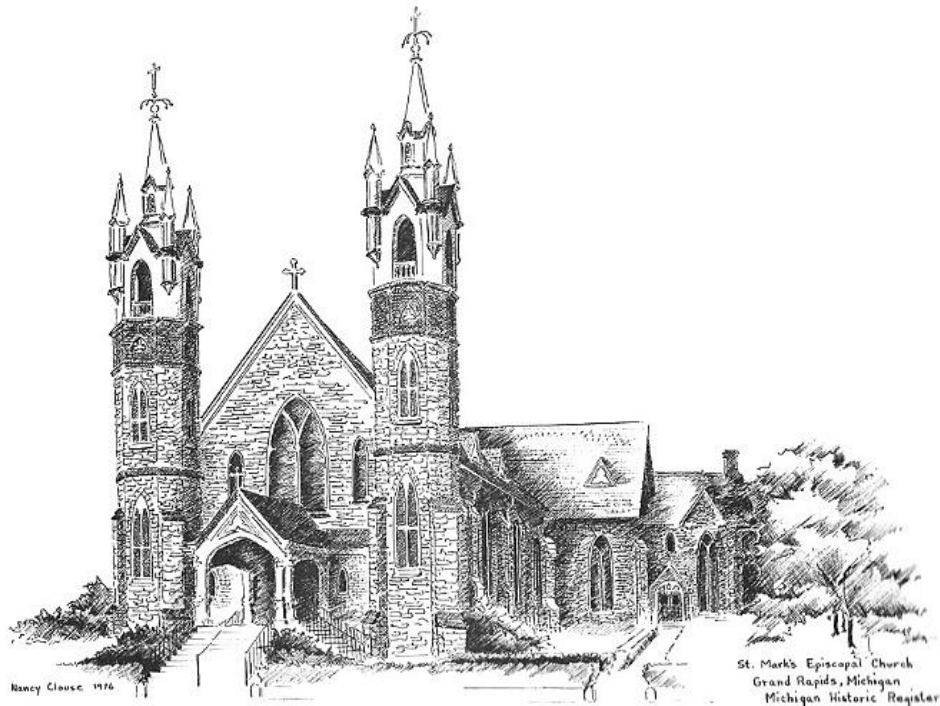


The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 N. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
www.stmarksgsr.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. For more information please contact Jeff Brown, Director of Faith Formation, at jeffb@stmarksgo.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 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 Faith Formation, 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 karsendc@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 — Prelude on “Slane”

Philip Gehring

Welcome

Introit — Lord, Forever at Thy Side

Orlando Gibbons

Gathering Hymn — Blue Hymnal 390: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe den Herren

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*)

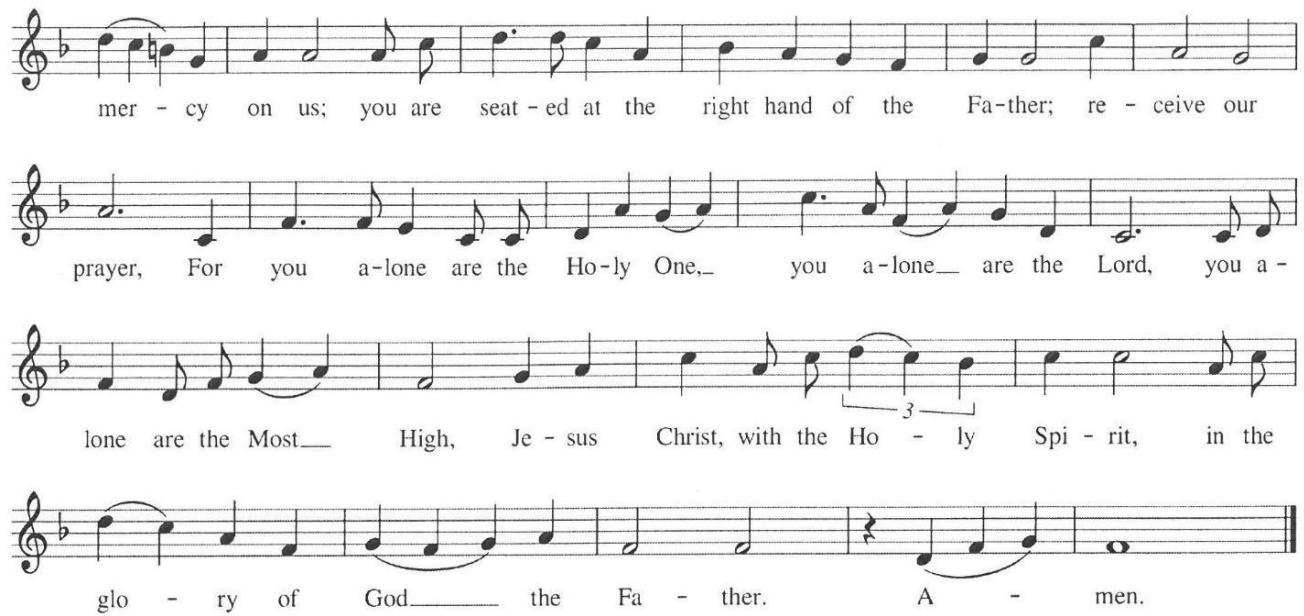
All: **Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future 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

Robert Powell

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



Collect

Deacon: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Deacon: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Hebrew Reading (*You may sit.*)

Proverbs 31:10-31

Lector I: A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who

fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1

Beatus vir qui non abiit

Lector at 8:00 a.m.: Let us pray the psalm responsively by half verse.

At 10:30 a.m., the Antiphon is intoned by the choir and repeated thereafter.



Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

Antiphon

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Antiphon

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Antiphon

The Christian Reading

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Lector II: A Reading from the Letter of James.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit

murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Hymn — Blue Hymnal 482: Lord of All Hopefulness

Slane

The Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

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

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

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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 Trinity of Lexington and its Senior Warden, Virginia McNabb; St. Andrew's of Grand Rapids and its Rector, Molly Bosscher. We remember the Church of North India. 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 (*pause to add names, silently or aloud*), we pray:

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

Deacon: 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

The Liturgy of the Table

Reception of Gifts

Offertory Music — River in Judea

John Leavitt

Presentation Hymn

10:30



God, who does all gifts im - part, shine, blest Spi - rit, in my heart;
you who gives your - self for all, may we an - swer to your call.

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.

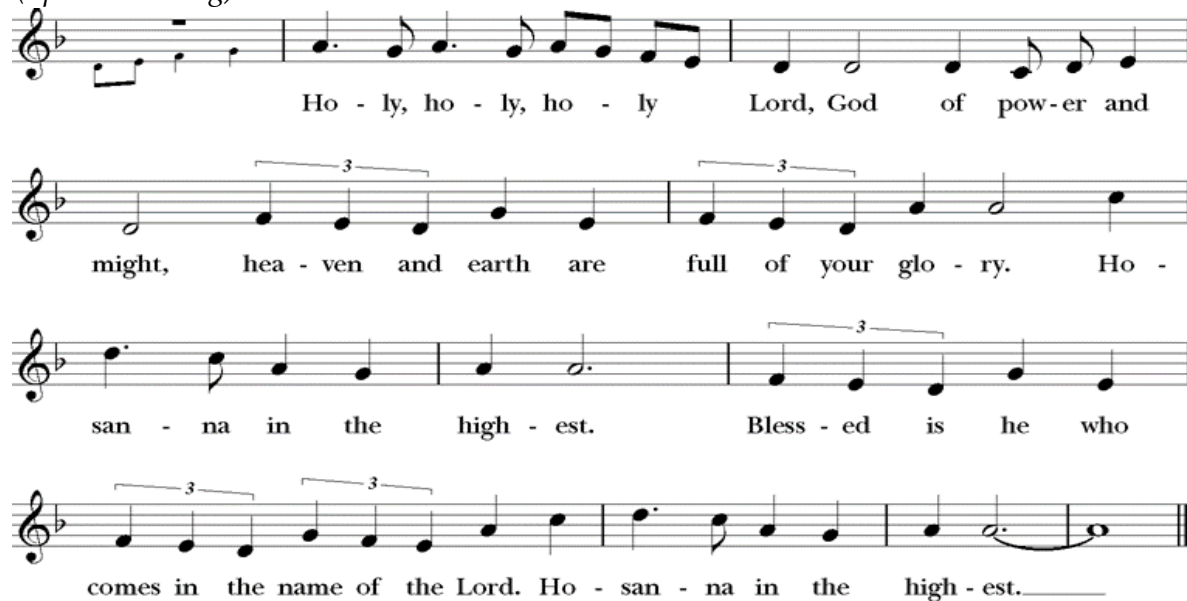
People: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider: 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. 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*)

Powell



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 were 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

Gerald Near

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our

Pass - ov - er 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.*

Communion Hymn — Red Hymnal 205: When We Walk with the Lord D.B. Towner

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

Deacon: 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 477: All Praise to Thee Engelberg

Sending Forth

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude – Fugue in C Major Dieterich Buxtehude

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.

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		Members of the Vestry	Search Committee
Alissa Almont	Sue Allen	Dawn Buller, Sr. Warden	Bob Brower
Dave Atkinson	Susan Andrews	Judy Freeman, Jr. Warden	Doug Busman
Barb Balser	Nita DeGraaf	Brian Topolewski, Clerk	Nancy Dodge
Sally Bowie	John Gracki	Gloria Lara, Treasurer	Karen Hunter
Ed Cox	Mary Rollins	Jon Anderson	
Ruth Hammond	Irene Savara	Ben Busman	Penny Larson
Alena Kirova	Roma Warmington	Laura Kozminski	Shawn Miller
Kathryn Marmion	Jean Zylstra	Emily Krueger	Heather Tafel
Chris McClain		Penny Larsen	Darren Walhof
Bill Nasser	In Military Service	Dan McDonald	Jackie Yam
Ed Nicholson	B.G. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA	Carmela McIntire	
Bea Rocco	PV2. Cailen Donahue McLea, USA	Amy Richards-Duncan	
Javier Ronquillo	Spc. Henry Dykema, ARNG		Postulant for Holy Orders
Meghan VanderMale	Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF		Thon Deng
Roger York	Col. Lt. Gabriel Monsalvo, USMC		Cathy Stevens
Prayer for the Transition	Col. Todd Murray, USAF		
	2LT. John Nicholson, USA		

Parish Notes

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

Parish Picnic, Today! All are welcome to join us in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 a.m. Service.

Rector Search Committee Update: Over the summer, the Search and Discernment team sourced, interviewed and visited candidates for St. Mark's new Rector. Finalists were invited to meet the Vestry here in Grand Rapids for interviews and to learn more about St. Mark's and living in our community. The Vestry has met and is working through the discernment and decision-making process. We hope to be able to share more with you soon. Please continue to keep our Vestry, all applicants and our entire parish in your prayers!

Adult Formation, Sundays at 9:15 a.m.: Starting on the 22nd, meet with Fr. David for a new video and discussion series on the Old Testament. We plan to expand the nursery care offering to cover this hour.

Sunday School Begins Today: See eNews for important parent form. Formation for 6th -12th grades is on the upper level, at 9:15 a.m. (concurrent with adult formation). During the 10:30 a.m. Service, nursery care returns to the lower level, while formation for K-2nd and 3rd-5th grades is in the upper level. Our curricula to begin the year focuses on celebrating and caring for God's Creation. Our first Sunday afternoon youth group meet-up, with a new lesson series, will be on the 29th, from 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., at St. Andrew's on 3 Mile.

Campus Ministry Wednesdays! We welcome ~60 students weekly for lunch and a peaceful place to connect with peers and interested adults. To host a meal or serve as contact email Laura, laurakozminski@gmail.com.

Midweek Eucharist: Enjoy a peaceful and prayerful half hour in St. Mary's Chapel, on Wednesdays at noon.

Book Study Continues: Sundays, Sept. 29 and Oct. 13, 1 – 3:30 p.m. See eNews for the Zoom link to discuss *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith and Refounding Democracy*.

Sharing the Bounty Walk, October 6th, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Sign up sheets at the Welcome Desk! This 1.5 mile tour through the Heartside area is a major fundraiser for our Breakfast Café and the Downtown Food Pantry.

Spa Day Update and Volunteers, October 12th: Spa Day evolved into a quarterly Foot Clinic and Hair Cuts, on Saturdays after our Cafe. Volunteers needed. Contact Jane, 616-915-6396 janealisonkotarski@gmail.com.

Flu Immunization Clinics, October 12th and 13th: Corewell Health will offer flu shots at Breakfast Cafe on October 12th until 11:00 a.m, as well as to parishioners on Sunday the 13th from noon – 1:00 p.m.

Candidates Accountability Meeting, October 12th: Together West Michigan has invited local political candidates to attend this meeting and pledge their support on important issues. Watch for more details.

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 Penny Larson after the 10:30 a.m. Service.

Check Presentation from the State of Michigan: This week State legislators who championed our request for a state appropriation came to St. Mark's to make a check presentation. We had outstanding bi-partisan support for the work St. Mark's does in the community. Senator Mark Huizenga, State Representative Carol Glanville and Senator Winnie Brinks were some of the key advocates for us. We are happy to receive \$1.5 million dollars from the State of Michigan and so grateful to our legislators for recognizing St. Mark's long history of service.



Church Spotlight on the Annual Parish Dinner, October 13th



Please return your RSVP card this week. If you did not receive an invitation by mail, check in with Pam or Kate, officeadmin@stmarksgsr.org. We hope you will join us for a wonderful fall dinner, entertainment and a Silent Auction at Kent Country Club. Any donations of products that reflect a talent of yours, or a new gift or gift card from a business you're connected to, are welcomed at the church office.