

The Sixth Sunday of Easter



May 10, 2026

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II (Expanded Language)

Prelude

There is a Spirit that Delights to Do No Evil

Ned Rorem

Welcome

Hymn

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

Blue Hymnal - 492

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.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

¶ *All are seated.*

A Reading

Acts 17: 22-31

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66: 7-18

Jubilate Deo

¶ *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.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you— not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

¶ *All are invited to stand.*

The Gospel Hymn

This is my Father's world, v. 1

Blue Hymnal - 651

¶ *Verse 1 is sung before the Gospel.*

The Gospel

1 Peter 3:13-22

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

People: † Glory to you, O Christ.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will,

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Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Gospel Hymn

This is my Father's world, v. 2

Blue Hymnal - 651

¶ *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 Pakistan; for Sean, the Presiding Bishop, the Diocese of Easton and Santash, its Bishop; for Anne our Bishop Assisting and the Standing Committee of the Diocese; St. Paul's of Harsens Island and its Senior Warden, Kathy Harrison; St. John's of Grand Haven and its Rector, Jared Cramer; The Order of Naucrati; 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.

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

Anthem

See Now the Lamb of God

Presentation Hymn

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures

here below; praise him, above, ye heav'nly host; praise

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant May God be with you. *People* And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

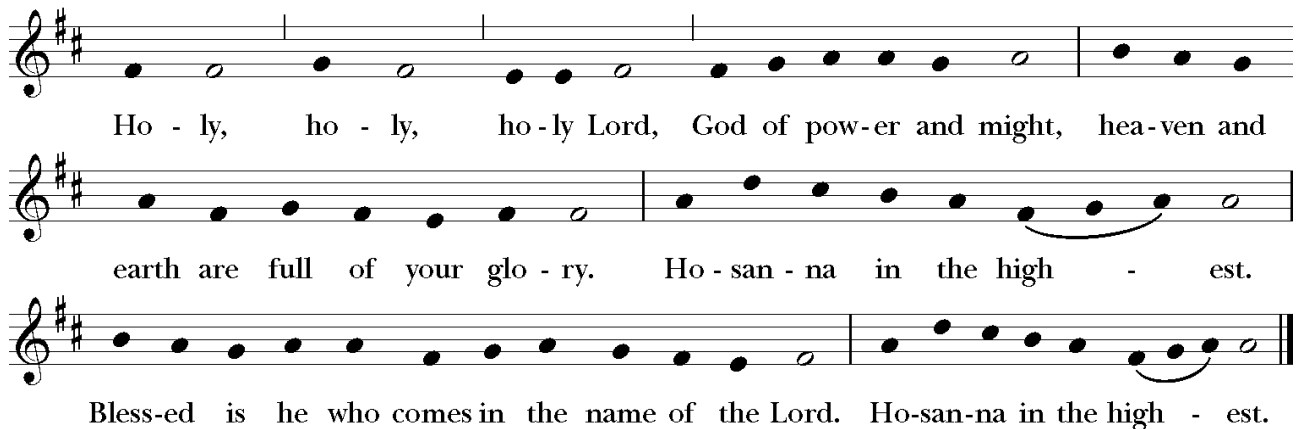
Celebrant Let us give thanks to Al-migh-ty God. *People* It is right to give God thanks and Praise.

g 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.

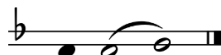
¶ *The Celebrant continues*

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:



A-men

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.

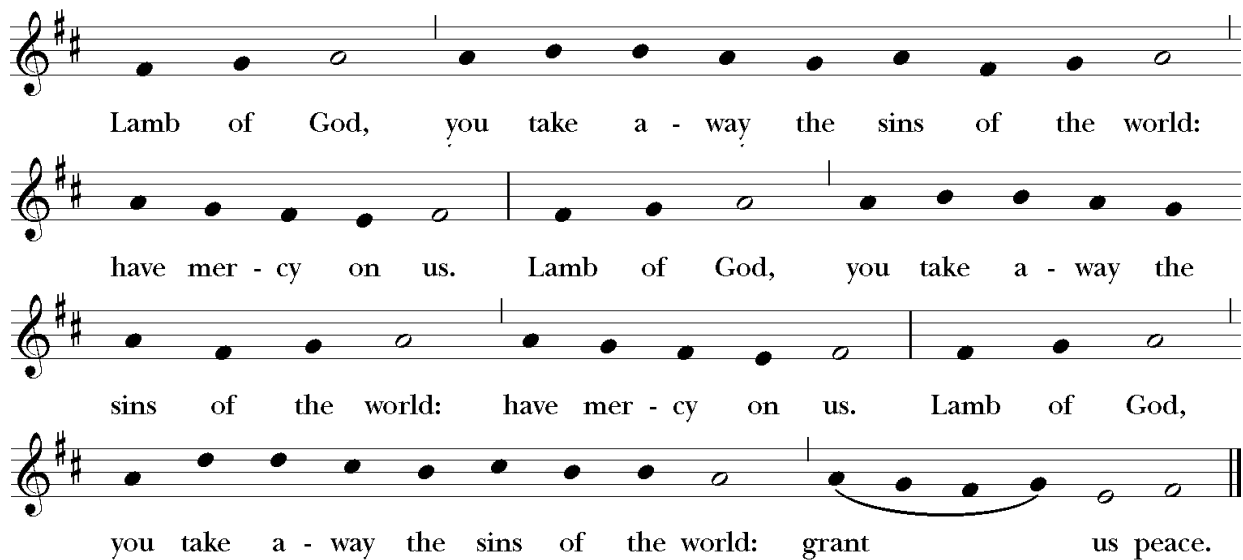
Spanish Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre; venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy el pan de este día y perdona nuestras deudas, como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores y no nos dejes caer en la tentación mas libranos del mal. Porque 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 Ushers' 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 gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove

Blue Hymnal - 512

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

We plow the fields and scatter

Blue Hymnal - 291

Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

Canzona

Girolamo Frescobaldi

Today's altar flowers are given by Jeanne Howell, in memory of Fr. Joseph Howell, former Rector of St. Mark's.

*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 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
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

Annual Diaper Drive Begins Today: This the sixteenth 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, especially sizes 4-6. Caregivers know how expensive diapers are, on top of childcare costs. But did you know that 1 in 4 Kent County children are born into poverty? Or that, nationally, parents report delaying rent or mortgage payments to afford diapers, as well as missing up to 5 days of work a month because they didn't have the required diapers to send with the child to care? Each donated diaper keeps a local kid dry, healthy and happy. 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.

Expanded Sanctuary Loop Audio covers the center aisle and North Transept! If you have a telecoil hearing aid or cochlear implant, use telecoil "T" mode. Anyone else can borrow a loop receiver headset.

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

15 Minute Diocesan Survey and Focus Groups: What supports spiritual and discipleship growth and parish vitality? 1. See our eNews for links to a diocesan survey. It is open until May 31 and takes about 15 minutes. It 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 - it does not collect your name or email address. Enter to win a swag prize pack.

2. They also seek participants for a few focus group conversations in May. Each group of 6-8 participants will meet once on Zoom for 60-75 minutes, facilitated by 2 diocesan staff. All participants can pick out a tshirt, mug, or more.

Blessing of the Fields at Plainsong Farm! May 17 at 4:30.

Together West Michigan Delegates Assembly, May 21, 6:30: This is a time of celebrating our wins, and planning for the future. It's a lot of fun and full of excitement and inspiration! Register via eNews.

Pentecost, Baptisms and Welcoming Our New Music Director, May 24th! Pentecost falls on Memorial Day weekend this year, but we hope you can join us for this special day in our church life - this year in particular!

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.

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.

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: *Tobias and the Angel with the Fish*, att. Willem Drost, c. 1650 - c. 1655.