

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025
10:00 a.m.

*Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church
A house of prayer for all people in the historic Radcliffeborough
neighborhood of Charleston, South Carolina*

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Rector
The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, Clergy Associate-Retired
Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster
Rob Turner, Senior Warden – Hillery Douglas, Junior Warden

*The 1982 Hymnal, referred to as **Hymnal** and Lift Every Voice and Sing II, referred to as **LEVAS** are found in your pew. **WLP** designates the music comes from the publication *Wonder, Love and Praise*. If **BCP** appears, that is a reference to the red Book of Common Prayer, also found in your pew.*

Opening Proclamation

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

INTROIT Glorious is the Name of Jesus Robert J Fryson

OPENING HYMN How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord **Hymnal 636**

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Priest says.

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy and living God.
People Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen

The Priest says.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The following is sung, all standing.

Canticle 13, A Song of Praise: Benedictus es, Domine **Hymnal S-236**

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you
for ever.
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim, we will praise you and highly exalt you for
ever.
Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we will praise you and highly exalt you for
ever.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: God be with you.
People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33:12-22

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

*13 The LORD looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.*

14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.

*15 He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.*

16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.

*17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.*

18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,

*19 To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.*

- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; *
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
- 22 *Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.***

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Please stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

Hymnal 401

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

TRANSITION SONG In the Lord I'll be ever thankful by Taizé

THE SERMON **The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer**

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.

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.

Intercessor: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the Church: Father, enliven the Church for its mission. ***People: That we may be the salt of the earth and light to the world.***

Intercessor: Breathe fresh life into your people. ***People: Give us the power to reveal Christ in word and action.***

Intercessor: We pray for the world: Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace. ***People: That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.***

Intercessor: Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
People: Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

Intercessor: We pray for the community: God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others. ***People: That all act with integrity and courage.***

Intercessor: Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours and for those in need: God of hope, comfort and restore of all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers) Lord, hear our prayer. ***People: May they know the power of your healing love.***

Intercessor: Almighty God, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve, bless all who following in his steps live a life of service to others. Those who dedicate themselves in every season of life, in youth and advancing age, to service of nation and every human being, striving for justice, peace and equality for all people in their daily lives. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant all who serve, wisdom, patience and courage, that they may minister in the name of Christ to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us. ***People: For it is in giving that we receive.***

Intercessor: Make us willing agents of your compassion.
People: Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

Intercessor: We remember those who have died and those who mourn: We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Give comfort to those who mourn.
People: Father, into your hands we commend them.

Intercessor: Lord, you have called us to serve you.
People: Grant that we may walk in your presence; your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Confession and Absolution

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

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord saying, "Peace be with you."

SONG Surely the Presence of the Lord is In This Place *Sung by all.*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

The Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.

OFFERTORY Down in the Valley to Pray Arr. Jay Althouse
Monica Hammonds, *Vocalist*

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION *Sung to the tune of Hymnal #400*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Enriching Our Worship Prayer 2

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord 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 the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS

Grayson Warren Brown

LEVAS 255

Ho - ly, ho - ly, _____ ho - ly, ho - ly, _____ ho - ly Lord God
_____ of hosts. _____ Heav-en and earth are _____ filled with your
glo - ry, Ho - sa - na in _____ the _____ high - est. _____
_____ Bless-ed is the one who _____ comes in the name _____ of the
Lord, _____ of the Lord, _____ Ho - sa - na _____ in the
high - est, ho - sa - na in _____ the high - est. _____

The Celebrant continues.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. 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 for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with our patron St. Mark and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant sing:

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: *Let Us Break Bread Together*

LEVAS 152

Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

INVITATION

Celebrant The Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; Behold Who You Are; Become What You Receive.

At St. Mark's Episcopal Church, all desiring a deepening and reaffirming relationship with Christ are invited to come forward for Holy Communion or for a blessing. This is the table not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God. Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be fed and blessed here. For He knows you by name and calls you by name.

Communion will be offered in two kinds. The wine may be received by either sipping the chalice, allowing the Eucharistic Minister to dip your wafer in the wine, or dipping your wafer in the intinction chalice. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

We Walk by Faith
Trust and Obey

LEVAS 206
LEVAS 205

After Communion, the Celebrant says. Let us pray. (All pray)

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

PROCESSIONAL

Blessed Assurance

LEVAS 184

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

Thank You, Lord

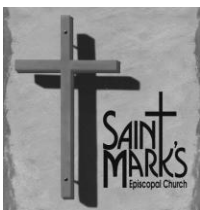
Sung by all.

*Thank You, Lord (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been So Good (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been My Friend (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.*

The worship is over. Now the service begins.



*The altar flowers are given by Chris Caffey Williams and Paula Caffey
in honor of their parents, Pauline and Bennett Caffey's birthdays.*



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Rector, *Celebrant & Preacher*
Gail DeCosta, *Crucifer, Eucharistic Minister*
Minerva King, *Lector*
Angela Hare, Kristin Wallace, Jacqueline Storts, *Altar Guild*
Suzanne Hieserman, *Flowers*
Gin Waters, William Bugg, *Ushers*

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Worship Services Online on our YouTube channel
<http://www.youtube.com/@saintmarksepiscopalchurchchs>
or by going to our webpage
www.saintmarkschurch.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Mark's Giving Online

You may make a financial contribution to St. Mark's Church via Zelle. Zelle payments are initiated by the sender in their individual banking platform or website. The St. Mark's Zelle payment address is office@saintmarkschurch.com.

Important Upcoming Services

Saturday, September 6, 2025: Institution of Michael Shaffer as Twenty-Third Rector of St. Mark's Church
10:30 AM Service Celebrated by Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley
Reception following celebrating the 160th Anniversary of St. Mark's Founding

Sunday, November 23, 2025: Three Churches Joint Worship Service – St. Mark's – 10:30 AM

Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Celebrant – Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Preaching
Reception following honoring Bishop Michael B. Curry

All hands on deck! Request from Suzanne Hiesermen

Members of St. Mark's are gathering to clean the inside of our beautiful church and prepare it for Fr. Michael's Institution as Rector on September 6th. We will meet in the church on Saturday, August 23 at 9:30 AM. Please bring pails, mops, dust rags, Endust, and anything else you can think of, which might be helpful. Please join us as it will take many hands to lessen the work. Come and beautify where we worship. Much Appreciated, Suzanne Hieserman



St. Mark's – Celebrating 160 Years!
We need your support.

Following the service of Institution of Fr. Michael as the twenty-third rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Saturday, September 6, 2025, we will be hosting a reception for the bishop, parishioners, and guests throughout the diocese to celebrate St. Mark's 160th founding anniversary. We will be erecting a large tent in the parking lot in which to host the reception, which will include food, drink, and hopefully, live music. This will be our opportunity to share with the bishop, diocesan leadership, clergy, and fellow Episcopalians throughout the diocese our pride in St. Mark's, celebrating our persistence in remaining faithful and vibrant in the face of difficult circumstances for over 16 decades.

In order to host this event with the class and dignity it deserves, *we need your financial support*. Please contribute to our efforts by donating at the following levels, or more, should you be so inclined. Simply place your check in the collection plate noting "St. Mark's 160 Celebration", or contribute through *Zelle* or *Tithe'ly*. ***Please donate prior to August 31, 2025.***

Benefactor \$500.00 – Sponsor \$250.00 – Supporter \$100.00

Altar Flower Donations – Altar Flowers may be donated by signing up for any given Sunday in the Altar Flower Notebook in the church Narthex. Suggested donation is a minimum of \$40.00.

Free parking is available during Sunday Worship Services at Ashley Hall School parking lot, located at the corner of Warren and Smith Streets, only one block from St. Mark's Church.

Parish Office Hours are every Friday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Other times, contact Fr. Michael at 843-830-1220.