



Stewardship 2024

**Welcome to
St. Marks's Episcopal Church**

All are welcome, all are honored, all are embraced, all are loved.

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

*A house of prayer for all people in the historic Radcliffeboro 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, Interim Rector

Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster



*The 1982 Hymnal, referred to as **Hymnal** and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, referred to as **LEVAS** are found in your pew. 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.

CHORAL INTROIT

In Christ There is No East or West

McKee

OPENING HYMN

Come, ye thankful people, Come

Hymnal 290

Enriching Our Worship – Holy Eucharist Prayer II

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Celebrant:

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.*

SONG OF PRAISE

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SEQUENCE HYMN

We Gather Together

Hymnal 433

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. so take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

TRANSITION SONG

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Song by Taizé

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I'll rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.*

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer

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: Form III

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

*All join in a Stewardship Prayer
by Thomas Merton*

Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts You have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in You is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him.

May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. Amen.

CONFESSION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

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 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

Celebrant: 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. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also 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.*

WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Testimony – Rob Turner

The Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.

OFFERTORY

Now Thank We All Our God

Michael Rosewall

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.*

Eucharistic Prayer 2 from Enriching our Worship

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 say:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.

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 friend. 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 St. Mark, St. Francis, the blessed Virgin Mary 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 debt, 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: *Taste and see*
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WLAP # 764

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness
of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and
see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. **Fine**

INVITATION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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 or dipping your wafer in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you at the altar rail. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request at the communion rail. 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

One Bread, One Body
Let Us Break Bread Together

LEVAS 151
LEVAS 152

After Communion, 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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

For the beauty of the earth

Hymnal 416

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

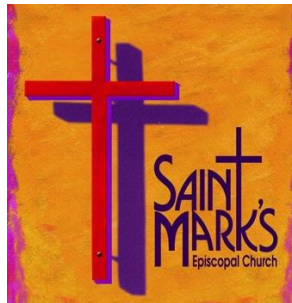
CLOSING HYMN

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.



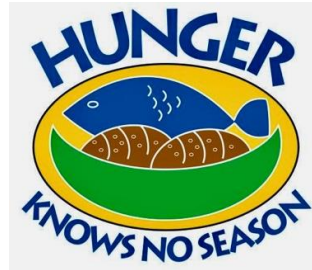
All are welcome, all are honored, all are embraced, all are loved.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preacher*
Shawan Gillians, *Crucifer & Eucharistic Minister*
Marj Kenney Williams & Shawan Gillians, *Lectors*
Ginny Grayson & Patricia Gates, *Altar Guild*
Vicki Williams, *Usher*

*The flowers are given by Lisa Van Bergan in Thanksgiving
For Doug Murphy's Birthday*

Announcements

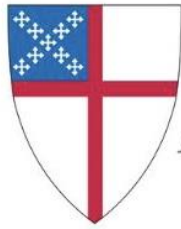


St. Mark's Advent Food Drive

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Hunger knows no season, and many in Charleston need food, especially around the holiday season. We are asking members of St. Mark's to join in an Advent Food Drive to help those in need. During the Advent season, we're asking each member of St. Mark's to daily place in a box at home, the following items on the appointed date, and then bring the full box with you to church on Sunday, December 17. We'll then deliver all these boxes to a Food Bank before Christmas Week.

- November 22-box of cereal
- November 23- peanut butter
- November 24-stuffing mix
- November 25-boxes potatoes
- November 26- macaroni and cheese
- November 27-canned fruit
- November 28-canned tomatoes
- November 29-canned tuna
- November 30-dessert mix
- December 1-jar of applesauce
- December 2-canned sweet potatoes
- December 3-cranberry sauce
- December 4-canned beans
- December 5- box of crackers
- December 6-package of rice
- December 7-container of oatmeal
- December 8-package of pasta
- December 9-spaghetti sauce
- December 10- chicken noodle soup
- December 11- tomato soup
- December 12-can of corn
- December 13- can of mixed vegetables
- December 14- can of carrots
- December 15- can of green beans



*Saint Mark's
Episcopal Church*

2024 Pictorial Membership Directory

Have your photo taken November 26, December 10 or December 17

In early 2024 we hope to publish a new Membership Directory, with photos and current contact information included for every member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. As it is important that we have current photos of everyone, our Jr. Warden Bob Waters, who is an excellent photographer, has agreed to take photos of individuals or families for the directory following worship services on the following Sundays. Please have your photo taken following our worship service on one of the following Sundays so we can include you in the 2024 Membership Directory.

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Sunday, December 17, 2023



Will you help draft St. Mark's New Vision and Mission Statements?

If you attended and participated in our Congregational Meetings following worship services in October, we'd love to have your input in crafting New Vision and Mission Statements for our vestry's consideration.

In some ways, discerning our church's mission and vision is playing catch-up with the Spirit, who is always out ahead of us. The Episcopal Church Foundation defines mission as what God is calling our congregation to do. We understand vision as a hopeful picture of the impact of our mission on the church and world in the future. Taking into consideration who we have been, and looking to needs and opportunities in the Radcliffeborough neighborhood and beyond, in formulating New Vision and Mission Statements, our "Mission and Vision Statement" group will focus on:

Why are we here, in this particular place?

Why do we do what we do?

How might we join with and better serve our neighbors?

Where is Jesus in all this?

What is he calling us to do?

A Mission Statement, a statement of what God calls us to do, can and should be stated simply. It is a concise statement of who we are and what we do in our specific location within the larger community.

If you have attended our Congregational Meetings and are willing to commit to meeting weekly with others, by Zoom or otherwise weekly during the Season of Advent (basically the month of December) to assist in the effort, please let Fr. Michael know either personally or by email ***no later than Tuesday, November 21, 2023.*** (843) 830-1220 or frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com.



Want to serve on a committee, guild or ministry team in 2024?

Ubuntu: I am because we are.

All committees, guilds and ministry teams at St. Mark's will be revamped and revitalized in 2024. Participation in all of these groups is open to everyone and no prior experience is needed. Every committee, guild and ministry team are vital to the success of St. Mark's and *your* participation is needed.

To be a Christian is to be in community. To accept the invitation to follow Christ necessitates acceptance of the responsibilities that come with the invitation. *Just showing up to worship*, doesn't get the job done. To fully embrace the invitation, we must also embrace the responsibilities and *live into* what we are invited to be. We might do well to remember that it is not just our showing up, but *what we do when we show up*, that matters most to God.

So please, if you have any interest or are willing to serve St. Mark's at the altar or elsewhere in 2024, please contact Fr. Michael and let him know, ***before December 10, 2023.***

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.

Stewardship Message from Fr. Michael

It is evident from Scripture that tithing is an integral part of Christian life. The basic beliefs of the Episcopal Church are found in our “Outline of the Faith” in The Book of Common Prayer. On page 856, we are told that the duty of all Christians is: *“to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.”*

Further you should know that the determination of whether you are a **“Communicant in Good Standing”** in any parish is made by your priest each year per the provisions of Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, which state:

All members of this Church who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year are to be considered communicants of this Church.

*All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and **giving** for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.*

So that there is no misunderstanding as we conduct our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, these Canons outline the standard that is expected of ALL adult members of the Church and are the standards I will apply in determining who at St. Mark’s is considered a member in “good standing” for purposes of election to office and/or eligibility to vote at the Parish Annual Meeting or any other time regarding matters of the Church. If you don’t make a written commitment, pledge or *tithe*, I have no record of your *giving*; so please, *tithe* and turn in a pledge card.

Pick up a pledge card in the Narthex, fill it out and commit financially to support St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in 2024



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT:

- setting up payments from my checking account/credit card.
- including the church in my estate plans.
- making my gift through stocks or securities.

My 2024 Promise: Acknowledging that we are Rooted in Abundance, I/we promise \$_____ for
I/we plan to fulfill this pledge monthl semiannuall annuall

