

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope



The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 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

New Every Morning is the Love

Kedron

OPENING HYMN

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

Hymnal 398

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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: Sirach 35:12-17

Reader: A reading from the Book of Sirach

Give to the Most High as he has given to you,
and as generously as you can afford.
For the Lord is the one who repays,
and he will repay you sevenfold.
Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it
and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;
for the Lord is the judge,
and with him there is no partiality.
He will not show partiality to the poor;
but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.
He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

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

PSALM 84:1-6

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 *The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; **
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 *Happy are the people whose strength is in you! **
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

***6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.***

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Reader: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past

Hymnal 680

GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

TRANSITION SONG

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

by Taizé

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, In the Lord I will 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.

INTERCESSIONS *(adopted from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer p.413)*

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 and comfort, restore all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart.

After a pause, the Intercessor will offer specific prayers for this week, ending...

Intercessor: 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

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

Roland Martin

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	<i>And also with you.</i>
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	<i>We lift them to the Lord.</i>
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	<i>It is right to give God thanks and praise.</i>

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:

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

LEVAS 263

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

INVITATION

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

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

In Christ There is No East or West
There is a Balm in Gilead

LEVAS 62
LEVAS 203

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

How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord

Hymnal 636

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

Thank You, Lord

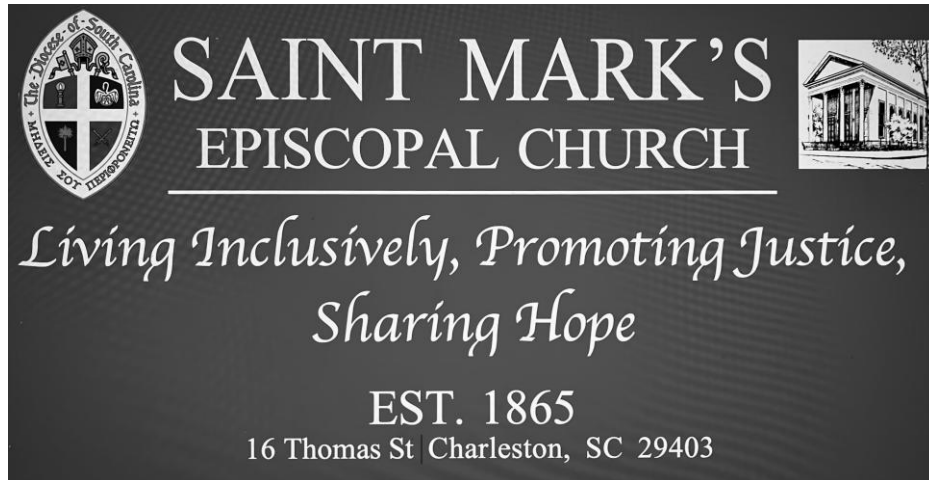
Sung by all.

***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 Minerva J. King
in Celebration of Life.*



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Presiding & Preacher*
Suzanne Hieserman, *Crucifer, Eucharistic Minister*
Gail DeCosta, *Lector*
Gin Waters, Yvette Douglas, Jean Turner, *Altar Guild*
Suzanne Hieserman, *Flowers*
Angela Hare, Yvette Douglas, *Ushers*

St. Mark's Giving Online

Make financial contributions 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. Contributions can also be made through Tithe'ly, by accessing the below QR code.

