



*Saint Mark's  
Episcopal Church*

A community of people who honor St. Mark's historical African American heritage and always seek to follow the Holy Spirit in becoming the Beloved Community God envisioned. We are committed to social equality and justice issues, promoting equal opportunities for all persons, regardless of race, creed, color, ethnicity, nationality, sexual preference, or orientation.

We are a community that loves and does not judge, respecting the dignity of every human being.

*All are welcome. All are embraced. All are loved.*



## **The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

*Welcome to 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 a **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.*

## WELCOME

*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**

Christ be beside me

Bunessan

**OPENING HYMN**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Hymnal 390

## A LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*      ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now, and for ever. Amen.***

*The Celebrant 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*

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.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**THE LESSONS**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Exodus 14:19-31**

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus, the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

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

## PSALM 114

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, \*  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary \*  
and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; \*  
Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, \*  
and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*  
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \*  
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

**SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

*Please stand.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

Come Down, O Love divine

Hymnal 516

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

## 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.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a Concluding Collect*

## CONFESSION

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

*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.*

## ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: 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. *Amen.*

## THE PEACE

Celebrant     The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*       *And also with you.*

## TRANSITION SONG

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful**

**Song by Taizé**



In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 2195

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-fraid. Lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near, lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near." There are triplets in the piano accompaniment in the second and third systems.

WORDS: Jacques Berthier  
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier

ITLIBET  
Irregular

© 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.*

**OFFERTORY**

Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

Rachel Aarons after John Goss

**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 HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B**



*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*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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 Celebrant continues.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***Celebrant and People***

***We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;***

*The Celebrant continues.*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with our patron St. Mark, the blessed Virgin and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Sung by all*

**LEVAS 264**

***Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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, forever. 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**  
*Copyright: Onelicense.net #A-609900.*

**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

If I have wounded any soul today  
Go Down, Moses

**LEVAS 176**  
**LEVAS 228**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

*Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**BLESSING**

*The Officiant concludes with a Blessing.*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace

**Hymnal 347**

**DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Hymn**

Thank You, Lord

Congregation holding hands.

*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.*



**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preacher*  
Loretta Haskell, *Choirmaster and Organist*  
Bob Waters, *Crucifer & Eucharistic Minister*  
Minerva King & Shawan Gillians, *Lectors*  
Angela Hare & Kristin Wallace, *Altar Guild*  
Gin Waters, *Usher*

*The flowers at the altar are given by Walter Boags In Memory of Lydia S. Frost.  
Born September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1822, Died November 19, 1904*

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

We invite you to join us for *Porch Fellowship* on our front porch or in St. Mark's Parish Hall for refreshments immediately after the service.



*The mission of St. Mark's, a historically African American Episcopal church with a diverse congregation is to live and grow in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as reach out, serve, teach and support the parish family and wider community.*

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

### Announcements

- **Annual Parish Picnic will take place on Sunday, October 1 at the St. James Island Park - Stono Shelter.** Worship Service begins at 10:00 AM, Fellowship, Fun and Food following worship. Bring your own beverage and register to bring a side dish on sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Be part of *becoming* Beloved Community!
- **Outreach Ministry Update** – School supplies and backpacks were delivered to Charleston Development Academy this week by Minerva King and Marj Kenny-Williams. Mike Miller, Chairman of CDA personally accepted our gifts and was grateful. \$80.00 in quarters from our congregation has also been collected for veterans and residents of Patriot's Villa, which were delivered on Friday, September 15. Any questions about these ministries, please contact Minerva King. *Thank you!*
- **233<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Convention** – St. James Episcopal Church, Charleston – November 2-4, 2023  
For more information go to the diocesan website at [www.episcopalchurchsc.org](http://www.episcopalchurchsc.org).
- **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 Ashely Hall School parking lot, located at the corner of Warren and Smith Streets, only one block from St. Mark's Church.
- Please welcome Cheryl Caruthers, our new part-time Parish Office Manager. ***The new Parish Office Hours*** will be every Friday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Other times, contact Fr. Michael at 843-830-1220.

*Welcome to St. Mark's*



*I'm so glad you are here.*

Whether you are visiting Charleston for the first time, have recently moved here, have visited our church before or are doing so for the first time, we hope you will consider making St. Mark's Episcopal Church your spiritual home. Whoever you are and wherever you are in your life journey, we invite you to join our community effort in making the world a better place to live. There are no litmus tests. We don't want to change you. We want to support you as you grow into the person you were born to be.

In the Episcopal Church, we dream and work to foster God's vision of *Beloved Community* where all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. *Beloved Community* stands on the foundation of recognizing that any person's fundamental identity is God's beloved child. Such innate belovedness compels us to treat every single person on this planet with respect and dignity and to work for justice and peace and end our participation, knowingly or unknowingly, in assumptions or systems which trample on the beloved identity of our neighbors.

We humans cannot exist in isolation. We depend on connection, community, and caring. Simply put, we cannot be without each other. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu explained, "*My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.*" Tutu understood that the potential of human beings working collectively to achieve goals is infinitely greater than the potential of any individual.

We are a community of believers who come to worship, to pray, to love and to be loved, as we work to ease the burdens we share, living in the twenty-first century. We not only welcome but *embrace* a diverse community of people with different ethnic, racial, sexual orientation and social backgrounds, who may have different ways of being their authentic selves in the world. Our focus is to live into right relationship with each other and all creation as followers of Jesus. We are strengthened by our diversity, as we strive for unity, not uniformity.

So, I invite you to join us. Bring your gifts and passions, along with your doubts and your curiosity, but most of all, your hearts and minds. There is a place for everyone in God's church, and we may be the place where you can flourish, just as you are, *God's beloved child*.

Gratefully,  
Michael Shaffer +  
Interim Rector – St. Mark's Episcopal  
[frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com](mailto:frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com)  
Cell: 843-830-1220  
St. Mark's Parish Office: 843-722-0267



D  
I  
V  
E  
R  
S  
I  
T  
Y

Different  
Individuals  
valuing  
each other  
regardless of  
kin  
intellect  
talents or  
years.