

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

*Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope*



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

**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**The Presentation of the Lord at the Temple**

February 2, 2025

10:00 a.m.

*Sharing the hope and love of Jesus Christ in a radically inclusive, respectful and loving community, mobilized as His disciples to alleviate suffering, while working for equity, justice, and mercy in every aspect of life. To become God's Beloved Community.*

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector

The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, Clergy Associate-Retired

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. **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.*

**CHORAL INTROIT**                      The Great Creator of the Worlds                      Thomas Tallis

**OPENING HYMN**                      How Bright Appears the Morning Star                      **Hymnal 497**

## 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*

## THE GLORIA

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty 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

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by 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 – Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Reader: A reading from the Book of Malachi

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM 84

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.*

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*

hearken, O God of Jacob.

**8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;**

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.

**12 O Lord of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

## **SECOND READING – Hebrews 2:14-18**

Reader: A reading from the Book of Hebrews

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

## **SEQUENCE HYMN**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

**Hymnal 324**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

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

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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 HOMILY

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 – Bid by Intercessor**

God of light and life our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith. We pray for your church, for our diocese, bishops, clergy and all people.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Flame of abundant love, be our Joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world. We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith, and all who are struggling with faith.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach and nurture your disciples We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch, especially those for whom our prayers are especially desired.

Let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others either aloud or in our hearts.

*(Intercessor leads specific prayers for parishioners of St. Mark's, the diocese and Anglican Communion)*

We lift up in prayer this morning...

Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe, Fr. Michael Shaffer, Rev Jennie Olbrych, Horace Clark Lucas, Virginia O'Neill Pyle, Phyllis Shaffer and Monica Hammonds.

We pray today in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer  
Heavenly Rest in Estill

We pray today in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer  
The Anglican Church in Aotearoa in New Zealand and Polynesia

The Altar Flowers are given by Monica Hammonds in Memory of Lillian Forsythe, Thelma Simmons and Farris Forsythe.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Comforter of the suffering, warm our hands to loving service We pray for the world, especially where there is trouble and suffering, far away or nearby. We give thanks this morning for the life of Thomas Sumter Tisdale, Jr. who passed away this passed week. May Christ Jesus welcome him into the promise of heaven, where there is no more pain, but only the love of God.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation We pray for the land on which we stand, the peoples, creatures, plant life and waters around us.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Star blaze of glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home, and to heal the circle of creation God of radiant light, your love illumines our hopes before we know them, and our needs before we ask. Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service, we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

*The Celebrant may add 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.***



**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 Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.*

**OFFERTORY**

The Purification

Rachel Aarons

**HYMN AT PRESENTATION**

**Hymnal 400, verse 7**

*Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**Holy Communion- Eucharistic Prayer C**

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.*

Celebrant:

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

*People: Glory to you for ever and ever.*

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*People: By your will they were created and have their being.*

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.*

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef. The lyrics are: 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.

Celebrant:

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**People: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Mothers, God of Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

***People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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.***

**Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

## 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

In Remembrance of Me  
Come Ye Disconsolate

LEVAS 149  
LEVAS 147

*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.*

## THE BLESSING

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The Lord is My Light and My Salvation

LEVAS 58

## THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us bless 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.*



**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preacher*  
Rob Turner *Eucharistic Minister*  
Gail DeCosta, *Lector*  
Gin Waters, Yvette Douglas, Jean Turner, *Altar Guild*  
Suzanne Hieserman, *Flowers*  
Ellen Hardin & Marj Kenney-Williams *Ushers*



*The flowers are given by Monica Hammonds in Memory of Lillian Forsythe, Thelma Simmons and Farris Forsythe.*

**Announcements**



**Mark your calendars now!**  
**Sunday, February 23, 2025**  
**3:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

\$25.00 per person- Tickets will be available through the Men's Club in February.

## *Celebrating St. Mark's Leadership and Legacy*



Thank all of you who participated in the Annual Meeting of St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Congratulations to those elected to leadership positions and Alphonso Grayson, who received the Rector's Cross in honor of his over 80 years of service at St. Mark's.

### **St. Mark's Vestry**

**Class of 2027**  
Gail DeCosta  
Walter Boags  
Rob Turner

**Class of 2026**  
Suzanne Hieserman  
Ellen Hardin  
Vicki Davis Williams

**Class of 2025**  
Kurt Beecken  
Minerva King  
Hillary Douglas

### **Delegates and Alternates to 2024 Diocesan Convention**

**Delegates**  
Gail DeCosta  
Michele English Watson  
Vicki Davis Williams  
Ellen Hardin

**Alternates**  
Marj Kenney-Williams  
Anita and Michael Jefferson



## **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](mailto:office@saintmarkschurch.com).

To use Zelle:

1. Sign in to your banking website or mobile app and tap "Payments" or similar
2. Tap "Send money with Zelle®"
3. For person or business tap 'add a new recipient' or similar
4. Enter the amount to give (or pay, if for parking, event, wedding, rent)
5. If you want to setup a recurring payment, you can enter those details
6. Tap "Send". You have sent a Zelle.

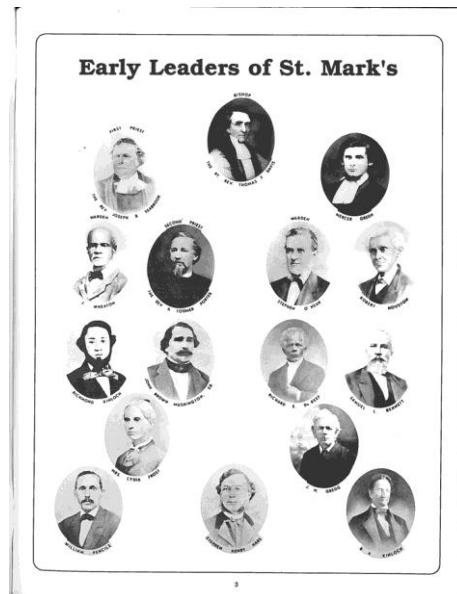


**Send Prayer List Requests to Fr. Michael and Cheryl.** The St. Mark's Prayer List is being purged and reconstituted. If you have someone you would like added to the Prayer List, please email Fr. Michael directly and Cheryl at [office@saintmarkschurch.com](mailto:office@saintmarkschurch.com).

**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.



## *Our Honored Heritage*

St Mark's Episcopal Church is an historic African American church established in 1865 by free people of color. St. Mark's was home to the Reverend Thaddeus Saltus, the first African American to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in South Carolina in 1882. Although he hoped to become rector, Reverend Saltus's life and ministry were cut short by tuberculosis, dying in 1884. In the spring of 1887, another African American priest, the Reverend John Henry Mingo Pollard, began an active ministry in the Diocese of South Carolina. Reverend Pollard was called to be St. Mark's first African American rector in 1888.

From 1875 to 1885 St. Mark's sought unsuccessfully to become a participant in the Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina but was not admitted due to the racial prejudice of the time. Again, from 1912 to 1915, the place of Black Episcopalians in the diocese was hotly debated, but still, St. Mark's and other Black congregations were denied participation in the Diocesan Convention. In 1956, St. Mark's and the other Black congregations of the Diocese were admitted to Convention but were still segregated from the whole diocesan body. It was not until 1965, one hundred years after its founding, and ninety years after its first petition to enter into the full life of the Episcopal Church, that St. Mark's was granted full participation in life of the Diocese of South Carolina. The history of St. Mark's stands as a strong example of the legacy of slavery, illustrated by the congregation's long struggle to achieve equal representation in the Episcopal Church.

Throughout its history, St. Mark's continued to be a community of faithful Episcopalians striving to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. While continuing to honor and embrace its African American heritage, today St. Mark's is a blend of ethnicities, geographies, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities and sexual orientations, where everyone is treated with dignity, respect and love.