



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 11, 2025 10:00 AM YEAR C

Welcome

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church! Whether this is your first time or thousandth time in worship with us, we are so glad you are here. St. Mark's is an inclusive community of faith, committed to celebrating God's creative love in all people. Together, we strive to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. You are welcome here—in worship, at the communion table, and in our walk together.

Prelude "Pastorale"

Alec Rowley (1892-1958) © 1948 Novello

THE WORD OF GOD

Presider Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People ***Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!***

Presider Dear friends in the risen Christ, we are made one with Jesus through the waters of baptism and the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. God's spirit hovered over the waters of creation and called all life into being. May that same spirit rest upon us to remind us that we are baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Anointed One.

Presider O God, the Creator of all things, by water and the Holy Spirit you have given the universe its beauty and fashioned us in your own image.

People ***Bless and purify your creation.***

Presider O Christ the Messiah, from your pierced side you gave us your sacraments as fountains of salvation.

People ***Bless and purify your Church.***

Presider O Holy Spirit, giver of life, from the baptismal font of the church you have formed us into a new creation in the waters of rebirth.

People ***Bless and purify your people.***

Processional Hymn 184 “Christ the Lord is risen again!” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Presider May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People ***Amen! Alleluia!***

The Collect for Purity

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.***

Gloria S278 *Mathias* *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father;

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

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

Presider Together let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lesson: Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

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

Psalm: Hymn 645 "The King of love my shepherd is" *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

The Epistle: Revelation 7:9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at

the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

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

Sequence Hymn 465 "Eternal light, shine in my heart" *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to John

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

The Gospel: John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Homily

The Rev. Jerre Birdsong

Profession of Faith: 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

Leader: That the world may be commended to the care of the Good Shepherd, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs, praying, Risen Lord,

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for our guidance to the springs of the water of life, and for all the many blessings God bestows upon us:

We pray in thanksgiving for our own lives, our families, our companions, and all those we love, and especially on this day for those who have nurtured us with the love of a mother;

For those in our parish family celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week especially on her birthday with Audrey Schroeder.

For the glorious spring-time splendor of this home God created for our enjoyment and care.

Let us give thanks to the God of Life, praying, Risen Lord,

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

Leader: Let us pray for the Church, that we may be your faithful people gathered before the throne of the Lamb:

For our clergy and our bishops,

For all the lay people who minister in the Church

And serve the world as the community of the Church.

In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray with all the diocese for the people and ministry of our own St. Mark's Episcopal Church; we pray for our companion parish of the Episcopal Church of St. John and St. James in Sullivan;

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai;

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Servicios Funerales Episcopales;
We pray for our Jubilee Ministry partner Isaiah 58 Ministries and our outreach partner Doorways Interfaith Housing;
We pray for the holy churches in every place, and for the unity of all, praying,
Risen Lord,
*People: **Hear our prayer.***

Leader: Let us pray for the world and its leaders, and our nation and its people, that all may turn from oppression, imperialism, and warfare, and seek only the welfare of all peoples, praying especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East, praying Risen Lord,
*People: **Hear our prayer.***

Leader: Let us pray for the hungry, the homeless, those in prison, victims of violence, immigrants, refugees, and all who have been separated from their homes and families and those who live in this fear, praying Risen Lord,
*People: **Hear our prayer.***

Leader: Let us pray for those who are sick, all who suffer, and those who struggle with addiction or difficult demands of daily life. We pray for those on our parish prayer list and those we name either silently or aloud [pause], that the hope born of Easter may give them peace, acceptance and renewal, and closer communion with the God who redeems and restores. We pray for all serving in the armed forces, praying, Risen Lord,
*People: **Hear our prayer.***

Leader: Let us pray for those who have died, especially Steve Penico, that they be welcomed to new and eternal life, embraced by God and the communion of saints, praying, Risen Lord,
*People: **Hear our prayer.***

The Presider offers this concluding collect.
Eternal God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life for all creation; grant us grace to love one another, to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to

share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Peace *We are a community of reconciliation and peace; therefore, we greet each other with a sign of our desire for peace.*

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

*The Congregation greets one another with the peace of Christ.
Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Prayers*

Children's Time

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem "I Am the Good Shepherd" Thomas Matthews (1915-1999)

I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own sheep, and my sheep know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for my sheep. But there are other sheep of mine, not belonging to this fold, whom I must bring in; and they too will listen to my voice. There will be one flock, one Shepherd.

John 10:14-16 ©1964 H. T. Fitzsimmons

The Holy Eucharist II

S 120

Lift up your hearts *Sursum corda*

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

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

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heav'n and earth; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy Hymnal S 128 *Mathias* *Blue 1982 Hymnal*
***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

The Presider 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,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Presider 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 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 u - ni - ty of the Ho - ly Spi - rit all
ho - nor and glo - ry is yours, Al - migh - ty Fa - ther, now and for ev - er.
A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

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

People and Presider

Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

Fraction Anthem S155

Near

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Ministration of Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God. So come to this table you who have been here often and you who have not been here in a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. You who are full of faith and full of doubt. Come, it is Christ himself who invites you to meet him here.

All who hunger and thirst for God are welcome to receive the Holy Communion at this altar. Gluten free hosts are available. Please let the minister know that you require gluten free.

Communion Hymn 343 “Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless”

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Prayer after Communion

Presider ***God is with you.***

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

Presider ***Together, let us pray.***

People ***Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in***

pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Alleluia! Amen.

The Blessing

A Blessing During the Easter Season *from the New Zealand Prayer Book*

May God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life. **Amen.**

May God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 708 “Savior, like a shepherd lead us”

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

“Prelude in D Major”

J. K. F. Fischer (1656-1746)

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ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

Lector: Matthew Cashen

Usher: Amanda Cashen *Greeter:* Diane Nienkemper

Altar Guild: Ellen Jeffery

Chalice: Greg Diekemper/Jonathan Robards

Livestream: Ben Cashen

Crucifer: Jonathan Robards *Godly Play:* Mehta

A prayer for the United Thank Offering for May 11th

Almighty and gracious God, author and giver of every good and perfect gift: Enlist our hearts in humble and steadfast gratitude to thee, that we may be drawn ever closer to the hallowed source of all good where there is complete fullness of joy, through Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Ms. Ruth D’Arcy

Church of the Holy Faith of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe

We Pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for Delaney, Teresa, and Jerre our Clergy, and for all the holy People of God;

In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray with all the diocese for the people and ministry of our own St. Mark's Episcopal Church; we pray for our companion parish of the Episcopal Church of St. John and St. James in Sullivan;

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai;

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Servicios Funerales Episcopales; **We pray** for our Jubilee Ministry partner, Isaiah 58 Ministries, and our outreach partner, Doorways Interfaith Housing;

We pray for those who are ill, in trouble or distress of any kind, especially the Anderson family, Lynn Kiamie Bianchini, Bruce Bramoweth & family, Yulia Borjte, Joan Cap, John Carroll, Steve Chamberlin, Janet Chance, Alicia Crowe, Michelle Dever, Donna Duffy, Candace Farmer, Mary Carol Fischer, Don Frank, Carol Garbs, Tom Gard, Jeanne Gardener, Sue and Ty Garrett, Joan Grout, Robin Harris, Allan Harvard, Rob Heritage, Damaris Hernández, Sherry Hicks and family, Carol Hohenberger and her mission team, Cindy Hooks, Margaret and Sandy Hvatum and their family, Tor Hvatum, Doug Jeffery, Jodi Keuney, Jane Kozielec, Richard Liermann, Kathy Lynch, Guy Medley, John Meyer, Donna Musgrave, Francis Neuner, Betty Orlando, Scott Schmidt, Joan Schneider, Becky Schroeder, Cheryl Schulz, Lois Schubert, Rick Schubert, Mitchell and Tracy Shelton, Jeanette Swallow, Lou Swallow, Bonnie Tesson, Scott Thomas, Kathy Tracy and family, Marilyn Wiethop, Justin and Lindsay Williams, Hulene Woody, Walter Zimmerman, Eric, Elizabeth, Leo, Marian, Jim, Baby Ameila.

We give thanks on her birthday with Audrey Schroeder.

We pray for those who have died especially, Steve Penico.

We pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially Jesse Foy, Robert McCarthy, Brandon George, Jon Moore, Paul Malabar, Logan Smith.

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson	Bishop of MO
The Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse	Rector
The Rev. Jerre Birdsong	Deacon
The Rev. Dr. Teresa K.M. Danieley	Priest Associate

Barbara Raedeke	Organist and Choir Director
Celeste Kocot	Youth Christian Formation
Melissa Engle	Parish Administrator

At the beginning of May 2025, your vestry met to discern who we are and where God might be calling St. Mark's. Through this work, the vestry developed the following:

Divine Purpose Statement for St. Mark's:

WE BELIEVE God's boundless love has drawn us together to be a community of reconciliation, nurture, and acceptance.

WE WORSHIP the Triune God with Scripture, read and interpreted, and emphasis on choral and congregational singing, robust instrumentation, and weekly Eucharist where all are welcome.

WE SERVE our neighbors, especially the marginalized, and take care of each other.



Scan here to give online.



KIDS!



JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR



Hearing Stories
Telling Stories
Songs
Costumes
Challenges
Painting
Clay



Indoor and Outdoor Fun
Digging in the Dirt
Surprises

... and More Fun, Fun, Fun!



EVERY SUNDAY

June 1 - September 7

9:30 am to the Peace During the Church Service
Children over 10 years old can volunteer as helpers.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UTO Ingathering



Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings, and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute

100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. During the Easter Season, St. Mark's Episcopal Church will be having a United Thank Offering campaign. Our UTO Ingathering is scheduled for May 18th. For more information about UTO click [HERE](#).

Peace Meal

The St. John's Peace Meal serves around 75 free meals to Tower Grove Park neighbors every Saturday afternoon. Different churches provide the volunteer labor. St. Mark's serves in this ministry four times a year. Our next date is **Saturday, May 17**. There are two shifts - the first from 2:00 to 4:00 and the second from 3:45 to 5:30. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Diane Nienkemper or Deacon Jerre. Also, St. John's has just learned that they have lost funding from one of their major funders and will need additional donations to continue the ministry in its current form. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the church office made out to St. Mark's with Peace Meal in the memo line.

Bible Study

Next week, May 18th after worship, we will gather for Bible Study on the first and third Sundays of each month. Together with Rev. Delaney we will journey through the Gospel of Mark together. Come with your favorite translation and a willingness to discuss the mysteries of our faith revealed in scripture! We will grab a drink and a snack and meet in the parish hall after church. All are welcome!

Thirsty Thursdays

Thirsty Thursdays are almost here! Coming up this Thursday May 15th, at 5:30pm join St. Mark's in the Rockwell Beer Garden in Francis Park for fellowship and conversation. Bring a friend! All are welcome!

Evening Prayer

Coming this summer, starting on May 28th is Evening Prayer in the Plaza. Bring chairs, snacks and a drink for an evening of songs and prayers starting at 6:30pm. Fellowship to follow. All are welcome!