



**ST MARK'S**  
Episcopal Church

**First Sunday after Christmas Day**

**December 29, 2019**

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**8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

*Please observe silence before the service for prayer and meditation, so that all may prepare heart and mind for worship. All mobile telephones, pagers and electronic devices with audible alarms should be turned off prior to the service.*

**THE RT. REV. LARRY BENFIELD, BISHOP**

**Welcome** to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, we are so glad you are here! Please complete a Visitor card and place it in the offering plate. St. Mark's is a traditional church for contemporary people and we believe that God's love is for everyone. This is an open-minded congregation where we actively seek, question and wonder about our faith. We also believe that we are the hands of Christ, and mission work within our community is a vital part of what we do here.

### **AN OPEN TABLE**

All are welcome to receive communion here. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the minister know when you are at the altar rail.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN**

Liturgy of the Word for Children is held at 10 a.m. for children ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children process out during the first hymn and return from the chapel during the Peace (under 30 minutes). Also we invite all children to bring a food donation during the offering each week.

**FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH** Children in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade meet from 6 p.m - 7 p.m. every Wednesday for snacks and fellowship, then split up by age. Youth in grades 7-12 meet every Sunday at 4:30pm.

### **NURSERY SERVICES**

The nursery is located in the short hallway between the Narthex and the Parish Hall. Nursery is provided for children birth through age 3 from 9:30 am to 11:30 a.m. The friendly, two-room nursery suite is staffed by a wonderful group of compassionate caregivers who are church members and mothers, too!

### **RESTROOMS**

Are located to the left of the main entrance, through the Parish Offices door.

### **COFFEE BAR**

In between the services, enjoy a cup of coffee at our coffee bar, located in the front left corner of the Narthex. Additional church information about our ministries and upcoming events can be found there as well.

### **OUR SERVICES**

**SUNDAY** Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sundays (Nave)  
EYC- 4:30pm  
Sung Compline Service at 6:30 p.m. Sundays (John Roberts Chapel)

**WEDNESDAY** \*Christian Ed 6-7pm

### **DIGITAL BULLETINS AND WI-FI ACCESS**

Digital bulletins are available; to download please visit <http://stmj.us>. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the building.

## THE WORD OF GOD

*All stand as the cross enters.*

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

*People:* **And blessed be his 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.**

*Celebrant and people say*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his 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.**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE LESSONS**

**FIRST LESSON** A reading from Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

**2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \***

**he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

**3 He heals the brokenhearted \***

and binds up their wounds.

**4 He counts the number of the stars \***

**and calls them all by their names.**

**5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \***

there is no limit to his wisdom.

**6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, \***

**but casts the wicked to the ground.**

**7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \***

make music to our God upon the harp.

**8 He covers the heavens with clouds \***

**and prepares rain for the earth;**

**9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \***

and green plants to serve mankind.

**10 He provides food for flocks and herds \***

**and for the young ravens when they cry.**

**11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \***

he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

**12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \***

**in those who await his gracious favor.**

**13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \***

praise your God, O Zion;

**14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \***

**he has blessed your children within you.**

**15 He has established peace on your borders; \***

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**16 He sends out his command to the earth, \***

**and his word runs very swiftly.**

**17** He gives snow like wool; \*

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

**18** He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*

**who can stand against his cold?**

**19** He sends forth his word and melts them; \*

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

**20** He declares his word to Jacob, \*

**his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

**21** He has not done so to any other nation; \*

to them he has not revealed his judgments.

Hallelujah!

## **SECOND LESSON** A Reading from Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## **GOSPEL**

John 1:1-18

*Priest:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John .

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was

a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

**The Rev. Karen Cherwien**

## THE NICENE CREED

**BCP 358**

*Celebrant and People*

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 VI

BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Larry, our Bishop, and Jon, Katherine and  
Matthew, our seminarians; and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.



*Silence*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

*The Celebrant concludes with a collect.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION**

**BCP 360**

*The celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

*Celebrant 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.

*the Priest, stands and says*

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**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

# GREETINGS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE BIRTHDAY PRAYER *Celebrant and People*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*People:* **All things come of thee O Lord and of thine own have we given thee.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*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.

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:

## SANCTUS

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

*The people stand or kneel. Then 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 [all] for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**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 Mark 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 forever. **Amen.**

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

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Celebrant and People*

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.

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*A period of silence is kept.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*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.

## **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*All are invited to share in the bread and wine of holy communion. To receive the bread, place one hand in the other with palms up and extend them to the minister distributing the bread. To receive the wine, please assist the minister with the cup, grasping the base and guiding the cup to your lips; or you may dip the bread in the cup. If you choose not to receive the bread or*

*the wine but instead receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.*

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*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 priest blesses the people, saying*

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

*Priest:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

### **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

#### **Today**

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

6:30pm Compline (Chapel)

#### **Mon - Wed**

Building Closed

#### **Sat**

10:00am Two Saints', Team # 8

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**January 25:** 53<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pancake Day Breakfast and Book and Bake Sale

**January 26:** Annual Meeting and Potluck

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

12/31 Barbara Cart

01/03 Reneilia Hampton

01/04 Linda Cobb

### Anniversaries

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Vestry Elections

St. Mark's has four vestry members ending their terms in January, and will need to elect four new members. The vestry functions as the leadership council of the church, caring for facilities upkeep, financial endeavors, and church policies. Serving on the vestry can be a very fulfilling way to offer your gifts of creativity and service to our St. Mark's community. We are looking for positive, dependable folks who are passionate about St. Mark's to run for vestry at our annual meeting in January. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please call or email the church office.

Annual Meeting and Potluck - Will be Sunday, January 26, 2020 – following the 10:00 am service.

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry Thank you for all of your donations this year! keep up the good work!

Charitable Contribution Deductions for 2019 Donors must deliver checks on or before December 31, 2019, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2019. Checks that are written, mailed, *and postmarked* in 2019 will be deductible in 2019, even if they are not received by a church until 2020.

ECW St. Mark's family and friends- Please start saving and gathering your books, games, videos, dvd's, and puzzles for our Book and Bake Sale on January 25, during Pancake Day.

## ST. MARK'S STAFF

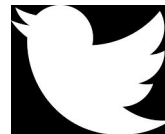
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| Betty Donnell , Kinsey Barns                | Nursery attendants   |
| Tarianne King, and                          |  |
| Maisy Fleming                               |  |

## ST. MARK'S VESTRY

|                               |               |  |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
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ST MARK'S  
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*The Episcopal Church welcomes you!*