

**WELCOME TO
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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CAPITOL HILL

ST. MARK'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mark's is an open community, welcoming people wherever they are on their faith journey. We celebrate the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in the struggles of life and to care for others with love, justice, and compassion.



**THE 4th SUNDAY IN LENT
LAETARE SUNDAY**

March 27, 2022

**5:00 PM CONTEMPLATIVE
EUCCHARIST**

Rector

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Assistant Rector

The Reverend Christopher Phillips

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Caleb Nelson Amaker

Director of Music

Jeff Kempskie

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church ☩ Capitol Hill



To view the **parish calendar online**, go to our homepage www.stmarks.net and click “Calendar” at the top of the page.



Everyone attending worship at St. Mark's is expected to sign-in for contact tracing purposes. To support those who may be immunocompromised and those with small children, masks must be worn at all times in the nave. Please know that arriving a little early will help get everyone in.



Today is Laetare Sunday, from the Latin for 'rejoice Jerusalem'. This joyful theme provides a lightening from the penitential emphasis of Lent and is sometimes called 'Rose Sunday' as rose-colored vestments/hangings may be used. In the UK, it is "Mothering Sunday", not to be confused with Mother's Day. It was the day when servants were allowed to return to their 'mother' parish'. Simnel cakes, made with fruits, marzipan, and semolina flour, are traditionally eaten on this day

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING SENTENCES¹

Bless the Holy One who forgives all sin.
God's mercy endures forever.

COLLECT²

God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God, giver of life and health: we are called to hunger and thirst to see right prevail. Increase our thirst until justice has been satisfied and our hunger until it has gone from the earth. Amen.

¹ Grateful acknowledgement of God's being and purpose

² Pronounced 'COLL-ect' and is the special prayer for the day

You are invited to hold silence.

THE FIRST READING³ Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

THE GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Gospel of Jesus according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' "

³ *The reading(s) before the Gospel may be from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and/or the Epistles (letters to the new Christian communities)*

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

HOMILY⁴

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

AFFIRMATION⁵

**We believe in God the Creator, by whom every person in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen**

You are invited to hold silence.

⁴ *A means to engage a dialogue between the Bible and current world events*

⁵ *A communal statement of our belief*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE⁶

Let us pray for the church, ourselves, and the world.

Gracious God: As we walk through this season of Lent, we give thanks for our chosen spiritual home, all who guide and work for it, here and abroad.

Our help comes from you

Creator God, who breathed this world into being and established a covenant with those who follow you: bring us out of the captivity of our lives into your promised land.

Our help comes from you.

Forgiving God: You gave us this world and all its beauty, yet we used it for our own glory rather than yours. Remind us daily of its wonders and of our responsibility to tell those who have the power to make a difference by doing the work we gave them to do.

Our help comes from you.

Loving God: You taught that all are precious in your sight: we remember the lonely and the isolated, those who have suffered so much in these years of pandemic. We ask that you carry them and us through these dark days and breathe new life into all as you breathe new life into the world each spring.

Our help comes from you.

Living God: Your son walked among us and touched the lives of those overlooked by society: remind us of the homeless and refugees among us and that we are your hands in the world.

Our help comes from you.

Comforting God: You welcomed your own Son back into your arms after his earthly life. We ask that you welcome those we have lost, loved and unloved, known and unknown, over these pandemic years and remind us that we, too, will be welcomed home one day.

Our help comes from you.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*All may now offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud, ending with
“This is my prayer” to which all will respond “Amen.”*

Merciful God: These things, good Lord, that we, your servants, have prayed for, give us grace to work for; and, in the purpose of your love, answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes. Amen.

⁶ *Prayers, petitions, or entreaties hope to change us as we go into the world*

CONFESSION⁷

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

You are invited to hold silence.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father: We have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. 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 walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION⁸

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE⁹

The peace of God be always with you.

And also with you.

From your seats, offer a sign of peace to those around you. Suggestions include a peace sign, hand over your heart, bow, and/or a prayer hand gesture.

WELCOME

ELECTRONIC OFFERING

Please consider supporting the work of the church. You may make an online gift, or learn about the other ways to give, by visiting the St. Mark's website, stmarks.net, and choosing "Donate or Pledge" at the top.

Gifts to St. Marks can also be made by texting "stmarks20003" to 73256, or by visiting the QR code.



Thank you for your generous support of our collective work.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE¹⁰

Walk in love as Christ loves us.

⁷ Expresses our failures to do the work we believe God has given us to do

⁸ The priest expresses a sign that God is present and has forgiven us for our failures

⁹ A sign to one another in gratitude for God's presence among us

¹⁰ Reminds us that we offer ourselves and what we have to God's service

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Abba, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love. When we turned away you did not reject us. You came to meet us in your Son, you welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you. Jesus shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened wide his arms upon the cross and, with love stronger than death, made the perfect sacrifice.

Christ, our redeemer: on the night before you died you came to table with your friends. Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.

At the end of supper, you 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 all for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.'

We bless you, O Christ: you are the true vine.

Praise to you, Lord Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now; may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Savior.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts, make us who know our need of grace, one in Christ, our risen Lord.

Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world, we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voices to join the song of heaven, forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Throughout the season of Lent, we will use the traditional translation of the Lord's Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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 FRACTION

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We recognize this as God's table set before us and this bread and wine as God's food for all.

Therefore, whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe, **All are welcome and invited to receive. Amen!**

THE COMMUNION

*Please join us in the eating of the bread,
knowing this act of community is a full communion.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray, saying together:

Lord God, you renew us with the living bread from heaven. Nourish our faith, increase our hope, strengthen our love, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL¹¹

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

We go in the name of Christ. Amen.

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Welcome Newcomers!

We hope you feel a sense of connection, whether you're with us online or in-person.

There are many opportunities to get involved with St. Mark's, even remotely.

If you are a newcomer and want us to get to know you better, please fill out this form. Those attending in-person may complete the form on the last page. If you have questions, you can also contact the staff listed on the third to last page. We will be happy to help you in any way we can.

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Liturgical Leaders and Worship Participants

Presider & Preacher	The Reverend Michele Morgan
Verger	Jennifer Cate

Liturgy Request: At St. Mark's, we plan the liturgy periodically. If you would like more information on how we do this as a community, please contact Rector Michele Morgan at michele@stmarks.net.

Acknowledgements:

The Collect, Post-Communion Prayer, Blessing, and Dismissal: *The Book of Common Prayer* of New Zealand, adapted. The Penitential Litany and the Eucharist: *The Book of Common Prayer* of the USA, adapted. The Creed: Scott Lipscomb, adapted. Prayers of the People St Mark's Episcopal

¹¹ *A reminder of God's presence in our lives as we go into the world*

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Junior Warden

Jim Pittman juniorwarden@stmarks.net

Class of '22

Andrew Stafford, Shay Waye, & Kit Arrington

Class of '23

Brent Bickley, Fritz Henn, & Edna Boone

Class of '24

Christoph Berendes, Jeb Ory & Dave Wellman

Officers

Frank Nickerson, *Treasurer*

Randy Marks, *Asst. Treasurer*

Kim Bayliss, *Register*

Diocesan Delegates

Mary Neznek Raiford Gaffney and Tom Getman

Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Washington

Chapel of the Intercession, Washington Hospital Center
Pray for all hospital, hospice, nursing home and healthcare chaplains
Pray for all parish nurses and healthcare providers

Anglican Communion

Pray for The Diocese of Barbados -
The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Parish Prayer List

Betsy Agle • Ben Alquiros • Nora Alquiros • John Barton • Pamela Blumgart
Joseph Boone • Fairfield Butt • Diane Carey • Martin De Nys • Jim Frazier
Jan Hoffman • Elizabeth Long • Nat Marks • Taylor Emerson Marks
Pam Burton Moore • David Peterson • Joan Pierotti • Gardner Van Scoyoc
Eleanor Whitman • Joel Wilson • Margaret Wood • May Yazawa • Tom Zarek

Parishioners and Family Members serving in the military

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Andrew Ernst

Family members of the Parish who have died.

Ben Dibblee (Father of Michele Dibblee)

John Gunnar Rath (Brother of Bobbi Rath Smith)

Walter Rogers

In order to keep the prayer list updated, we begin anew semi-annually.

*If you would like to request to add a name,
please email the Bulletin Coordinator at bulletin@stmarks.net*



Welcome Guests!

We'd like to get to know you better!

We invite you to fill out this page, tear it off, and drop it into the offering plate or hand it to one of the greeters as you leave. Please take the rest of this service bulletin with you, so that you can refer to the service schedule, and office directory.

We hope you feel at home with us. If you have questions, please speak with the clergy or one of the greeters after the service. You can also call the office at any time and we will be happy to help you in any way we can.

Thank you for visiting St. Mark's today.

Go in peace and return often!

After completing, please remove this page and place in the offering plate or give to a greeter.

I attended: _____ 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 _____ Sermon Seminar
 _____ 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 _____ 5 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist
 _____ Special (wedding, funeral, etc.)

on March 27, 2022

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone No. _____

Zip Code _____

I am interested in learning more about:

- _____ Volunteering during Worship (Usher, Lay Server, Altar Guild, etc.)
- _____ Baptism (child, adult)
- _____ Getting married at St. Mark's
- _____ Music (choir, lessons)
- _____ Children/youth classes & programs
- _____ Adult classes
- _____ Senior programs/activities
- _____ Outreach/community service
- _____ Environmental issues
- _____ Yoga classes
- _____ Dance classes
- _____ St. Mark's Players (theatrical productions)

Would you like to be contacted by a clergyperson? _____ Yes _____ No

You can stay up to date on St. Mark's news by signing up online for the weekly eGospel newsletter at www.stmarks.net/contact-us/. If you'd like to join the St. Mark's egroup to interact with other parishioners, please contact Raiford Gaffney (rgaffneydc@gmail.com).