

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope



April 27, 2025
10:00 a.m.

*Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church
A house of prayer for all people in the historic Radcliffeborough
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
The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, Clergy Associate-Retired
Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster
Rob Turner, Senior Warden – Hillery Douglas, Junior Warden



Celebrate
50 Days
of Easter

Hallelujah!



Welcome to Eastertide
Easter Sunday is only a beginning!

The Great Fifty Days of Easter, also referred to as the season of Eastertide, is a time when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and all that means for us, leading to the launching of the Christian Church and its mission on Pentecost.

Although many people are familiar with Easter Day when the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, you may not know that it always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21. This was determined in 325CE at the Council of Nicaea in attempt to have all Christians celebrate on the same day with limited success, since Orthodox Christians use a different calendar. Eastertide is a season that actually lasts 50 days.

Why 50 days? It's actually quite simple. After the resurrection, Jesus spent forty days on earth before he ascended, which is commemorated on Ascension Day, May 29 this year. Then there were ten more days after that before the Day of Pentecost, or *Whitsunday*, which is celebrated on June 8 this year.

Luke writes in the first chapter of the Book of Acts that Jesus "presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." In chapter two, we hear the followers of Jesus gathered for the Day of Pentecost, which actually means "fifty." It happened during the Hebrew feast of *Shavuot*, which is why the followers of Jesus were gathering. The Hebrew festival was originally a harvest first fruits celebration and later it evolved into a commemoration of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

These Great Fifty Days are a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ and all that means for us, leading to the launching of the Christian Church and its mission on Pentecost. During this time, Episcopalians once again use the word *alleluia*, which they refrain from using during the penitential season of Lent and the confession is omitted from the liturgy. So, for the next few weeks, the priest will still exclaim "*Alleluia. Christ is Risen*" on Sunday mornings, to which the people will reply, "*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*" The Paschal Candle is lit on Easter and on Sundays during Eastertide which symbolizes the risen Christ. Paschal means "related to Easter or Passover," which is why Eastertide is sometimes called Paschaltide and Jesus is sometimes called the "Paschal Lamb." The church also uses white (and sometimes gold) vestments, which is the color designated for feasts and festivals. Eastertide ends on the Day of Pentecost, which commemorates the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire. Interestingly, word Pentecost means "fiftieth day" in Greek.

Easter and Eastertide are the high point of our Church year, so it makes sense we should celebrate for a prolonged period of time. After all, the main point of the whole gospel is to prepare us for an eternal feast!



*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.

INTROIT

Father, We Praise Thee

Ralph Vaughan Williams

OPENING HYMN

This Joyful Eastertide

Hymnal 192

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Celebrant says.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Reader: A reading from The Acts of the Apostles

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

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

Psalms 118: 14-29

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.

**15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:**

16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

**17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.**

18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.

**19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."

**21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.**

22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

**23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! *
Lord, send us now success.**

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

**27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.**

28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you."

**29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

Reader: A reading from the Book of Revelation

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Please stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Hymnal 324

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

TRANSITION SONG **In the Lord I'll be ever thankful** **Song by Taizé**

THE SERMON **The Reverend Canon Philip**
Linder

7

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *Form IV*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers)

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord saying, "Peace be 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*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

The Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.

OFFERTORY Christ is Made the Sure Foundation 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!*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

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.

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S 128

Schubert

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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,

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.

Fraction Anthem: *Taste and see*

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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 allowing the Eucharistic Minister to dip your wafer in the wine, so that you may receive by intinction. 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. 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

We Walk by Faith
Come Ye Disconsolate

LEVAS 206
LEVAS 146

After Communion, the Celebrant says.

Let us pray. *(All pray)*

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

At the Name of Jesus

Hymnal 435

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of the Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

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.*

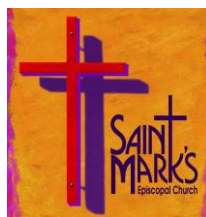
POSTLUDE:

Toccata

Charles-Marie Widor

The worship is over. Now the service begins.

*The Flowers at are given by Erin and Michael Shaffer
in celebration of Erin's Birthday
and the anniversary of Michael's ordination to the priesthood.*



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Reverend Canon Philip Linder, *Celebrant & Preacher*

Ellen Hardin, *Eucharistic Minister*

Gail DeCosta, *Lector*

Loretta Haskell, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Angela Hare, Kristin Wallace & Jacqueline Storts, *Altar Guild*

Suzanne Heiserman, *Flowers*

William Bugg & Ginny Grayson, *Ushers*

Announcements



Bishop Ruth to visit St. Mark's Episcopal Church Sunday, June 15, 2025

Canon law requires every diocesan bishop to visit every congregation in his or her diocese at least once every three years. The canonical purposes of a visitation are for the bishop to examine the condition of the congregation, oversee the clergy, preach, confirm, preside at the eucharist, and examine parochial records. Each year since her election, our Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley has made an official visitation to St. Mark's Episcopal Church. As one of our diocese historic African American parishes, Bishop Ruth is committed to our wellbeing and supports efforts underway to grow our parish and strengthen its financial foundation in 2025.

Bishop Ruth will make her annual visit to St. Mark's on **Sunday, June 15, 2025**, to show her support and share her counsel for the efforts being undertaken to put St. Mark's on a good foundation for the future. So please make every effort to be present with us on June 15th. There will be a reception honoring Bishop Ruth following our worship service when she will share her thoughts and vision for St. Mark's and be available to answer questions.

Special note: During her visitation the bishop will confirm any baptized person who has not yet been confirmed in the Episcopal Church and/or receive those of other faith traditions who desire to become a member of the Episcopal Church. We also will plan during her visit to officially recognize those who have become members of St. Mark's since her last visit in March 2024.

So, if you are interested in formalizing your membership at St. Mark's and/or being confirmed or received on June 15, please communicate that directly with Fr. Michael on or before May 25, 2025.





Sunday, June 22, 2025
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church – 11:00 AM

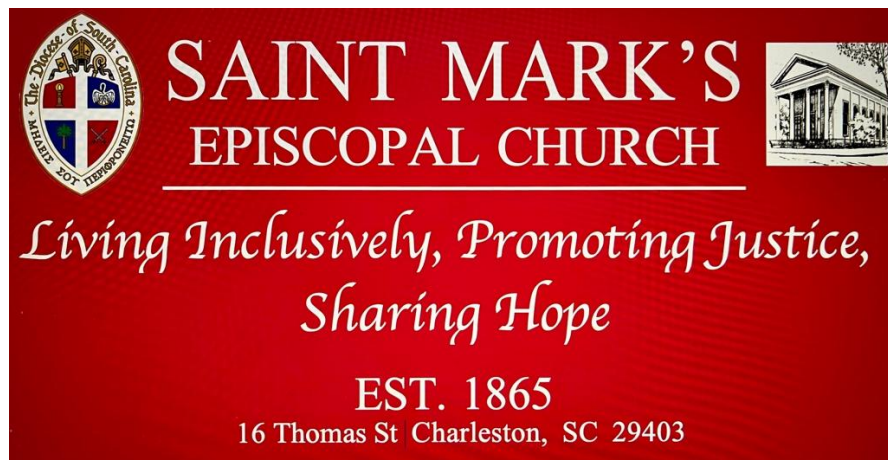
In furtherance of our collaborative efforts, the “Three Churches United”, St. Mark’s, Calvary and St. Stephen’s Episcopal Churches will worship together on Sunday, June 22, 2025, at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in a Liturgy celebrating that day in 1865 when 250,000 enslaved persons in the state of Texas, the last bastion for slavery during the final days of the Civil War, were declared free by the U.S. Army.

We will not hold a worship service at St. Mark’s on June 22nd but rather we ask all members of St. Mark’s to join with our brothers and sisters from Calvary and St. Stephens’s to worship together at St. Stephen’s on at day at 11:00 AM. St. Stephen’s is located at 67 Anson St, Charleston, SC 29401. Parking information will be provided closer to the date.

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.



Welcome back home!



The Reverend Dr. Philip C Linder

We are blessed to have serving us today Fr. Philip, who served St. Mark's as Priest in Charge from 2016 to 2021.

The Reverend Dr. Philip C. Linder was called to serve as Canon to the Ordinary by the Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley in November 2021. His position is intended to support the diocese's work in healthy governance, leadership and development, and pastoral connections. Canon Linder serves as the Transition Officer for the diocese. He is also the Diocesan Office liaison to the Commission on Ministry, helping to raise up lay and clergy leaders for our diocese. Additionally, his areas of responsibility include diocesan properties, the return of churches to the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, and Constitution and Canons. Canon Linder is also responsible for clergy licensing, maintaining a supply clergy list, remarriage requests, pastoral concerns, and Title IV concerns. He also serves as liaison for the bishop's office with the Trustees, and as chief of staff in times of the absence of the bishop.

A 1982 graduate of Villanova University and a 1985 graduate of the General Theological Seminary, Philip also has a doctorate in ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary and a doctorate in psychology from the Graduate Theological Foundation. In his years as a priest, Philip has led five parishes, including as Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Columbia, SC.

Philip and his wife Ellen have three grown children and five grandchildren. They live on Daniel Island.

Although in his position as Canon to the Ordinary has many obligations throughout the diocese, he continues to express a personal interest in the people and wellbeing of St. Mark's, and we are blessed to have him with us today. ***Thank you Philip+!***