

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

All are welcome. All are embraced. All are loved.



The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

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

Alphonso Grayson, Senior Warden – Bob Waters, Junior Warden

Glory to you, beholding the depths;
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 146

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! *

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 *Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.*

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**4 *Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;***

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

**6 *Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.***

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**8 *The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.***

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10, [11-13], 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

Please stand.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Priest: 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 SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych

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.

INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING (adopted from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer p.413)

Intercessor: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the Church: Father, enliven the Church for its mission.

People: that we may be the salt of the earth and light to the world.

Intercessor: Breathe fresh life into your people.

People: Give us the power to reveal Christ in word and action.

Intercessor: We pray for the world: Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

People: That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Intercessor: Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

People: Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

Intercessor: We pray for the community: God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.

People: That all act with integrity and courage.

Intercessor: Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers) Lord, hear our prayer.

People: May we serve Christ in another, and love as he loves us.

Intercessor: Almighty God, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve, bless all who following in his steps live a life of service to others. Those who dedicate themselves in every season of life, in youth and advancing age, to service of nation and every human being, striving for justice, peace and equality for all people in their daily lives. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant all who serve, wisdom, patience and courage, that they may minister in the name of Christ to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us.

People: For it is in giving that we receive.

Intercessor: We pray for those in need: God of hope, comfort and restore of all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

People: May they know the power of your healing love.

Intercessor: Make us willing agents of your compassion.

People: Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

Intercessor: We remember those who have died and those who mourn: We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Give comfort to those who mourn.

People: Father, into your hands we commend them.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Sung to the tune of Hymnal #400

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Enriching Our Worship Eucharist Prayer 2

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

Celebrant: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

Hymnal S -125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with our patron St. Mark and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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

Let Us Break Bread Together

LEVAS 152

Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

THE INVITATION

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, allowing the Eucharistic Minister to dip your wafer in the wine, or dipping your wafer in the intinction chalice. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you. 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

Jesu, Jesu
The Right Hand of God

LEVAS 74
LEVAS 61

After Communion, the Celebrant says.

Let us pray. *(All pray)*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

PROCESSIONAL

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Hymnal 493

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

CLOSING HYMN

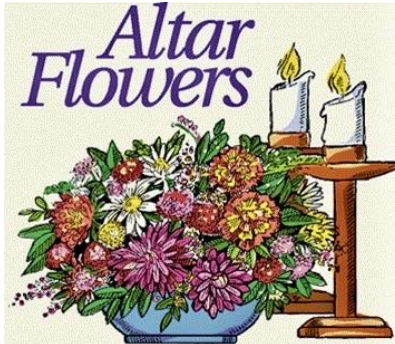
Thank You, Lord

Sung by all.

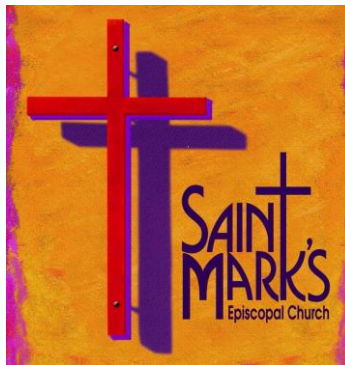
*Thank You, Lord (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been So Good (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been My Friend (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.*

POSTLUDE

The worship is over. Now the service begins.



*The Flowers are given by Lisa VanBergen in Thanksgiving for
My Son, Calvin Belton, on His Birthday.*



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Presiding*
The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, *Celebrant & Preacher*
Suzanne Hieserman, Rob Turner, *Eucharistic Minister*
Gail DeCosta, *Lector*
Loretta Haskell, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Ruth Breland, Alphonso Grayson, Suzanne Hieserman, *Altar Guild*
Gin Waters, *Flowers*
Vicki Williams, Ginny Grayson, *Ushers*

Announcements

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

NEW....



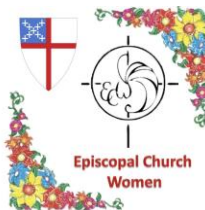
St. Mark's is going to publish a new Membership Directory this Fall, and we want you to be in it! Each of the first four Sundays in *September, September 1, 8, 15 and 22*, Erin Shaffer will be available to take your photo individually, or as a family, following our worship service. At that time, you will also be asked to fill out a "Membership Form" so we can have all your current contact information.

So please, dress up and show up one of the first four Sundays in September for our 10 AM worship and have your photo taken for our new directory!



Next Sunday, September 15

What's planned for St. Mark's for the remainder of 2024? What new programs and ministries will be announced? What special events or liturgies are planned? What efforts will be made to ensure St. Marks can call a new rector in 2025? What do our new Mission, Vision and Heritage Statements say about us? *It will all be announced during our worship service next Sunday, September 15, along with a new liturgy and service bulletin. Don't miss it!*



St. Mark's ECW Chapter Meeting TODAY, following worship

The St. Mark's Chapter of ECW is reorganizing and will be holding a meeting to elect officers on **TODAY following worship.** The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary and should only take 15 minutes. ***All women of St. Marks are encouraged to attend!*** St. Mark's ECW will be an exciting and fun group to be a part of in the coming months, so please make a commitment.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Parish Picnic
Sunday, September 29 -12:30 PM to 2:30 PM
Food, Fellowship, Music and Ministry
It's Free... so show up and show off!

Join members of St. Mark's and St. Stephen's Episcopal Churches in a celebration of the coming of Fall and sharing ministry in a voter registration outreach to Peninsula residents. Cheo will be sharing his famous BBQ Pork, the Men's Club will be grilling, and Hospitality and Events group will be providing all the picnic fixin's. We'll even have live music, as Lime and the Coconuts will be performing!

As a member of St. Mark's, you have committed to the well-being of our community and in that we all have an obligation to one another in supporting our efforts to grow the church by reaching out to the world and sharing the beauty and love of St. Mark's with others. *YOU ARE OUR CHURCH...* So come to the picnic and make an effort to bring someone not a part of our community with you. This will be our last formal community outreach event to promote St. Mark's in 2024... *so make it count!*

Let's show others what it looks like *"Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope"*

REGISTER FOR CHANGE!

Ensure your voice is heard:

- **Commit to the common good:** Voting is a public declaration of our love for our neighbors and our commitment to justice.
- **Get assistance on-site:** Our members are here to help with voter registration and answer any questions.
- **Exercise your rights:** Don't miss the opportunity to make a difference—register today!

FREE FOOD & FOLLY

College of Charleston Students
The Citadel Cadets
Peninsula Residents

...Join Us!

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
18 THOMAS STREET

SUNDAY SEPT. 29
12:30PM-2:30PM

@SAINTMARKSCHURCHCHS

***Calling all Men of St. Mark's – Men's Club Meeting
Thursday, September 12th- 5:30 PM – Parish House***

The Men's Club will be meeting next Thursday evening, September 12 in the Parish House from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. We'll share pizza, drink and fellowship, in an effort to envision a future for the Men's Club. We also need to finalize plans for our Annual Parish Picnic, the Annual Raffle and Annual Shrimp and Grits Event. *Please attend!*



St. Mark's Giving Online

St. Mark's has in place two means by which you can pledge or give financially to the church, **Zelle** and **Tithe.ly**. Our community is grateful for your support.

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.

Tithe.ly

Our payment address is <https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=65d68d64-5d42-11ee-90fc-1260ab546d11>

To give via [tithe.ly](https://give.tithe.ly/):

Click <https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=65d68d64-5d42-11ee-90fc-1260ab546d11>

or scan this QR Code:



The Panorama Newspaper which is published in Columbia but covers news throughout South Carolina is available every week in the narthex. Please remember to pick up your copy either on your way in or out of the church.

Quarters for Patriot's Villa Residents

Please place quarters in the green bucket in our Narthex which will be contributed to Patriot Villa residents to help them pay for laundry and transportation.

Plan on attending “Faith & Politics” discussion September 15th

St. James Episcopal Church
1872 Camp Rd, Charleston, SC 29412

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTS

FAITH & POLITICS AND THE 2024 ELECTION

SEPTEMBER 15 FROM 5PM - 7:15PM
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1872 CAMP ROAD, CHARLESTON, SC 29412

Join Rev. Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker and the Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer on September 15 from 6pm-7pm (with a potluck supper beginning at 5pm) for this important conversation that will touch on such topics as:

- “Why do ‘politics’ matter for Christians?”
- “What are our foundational values in the Episcopal Church as we engage in the public square?”
- “How might we think about our engagement in this particular election from a Christian point of view?”

This event will be held in the St. James Center to the left of the church. There will be formations classes for all ages and childcare will be provided. The evening will end with Compline at 7pm. ALL are welcome!

Stay tuned for more details on how to sign up for the potluck supper.

Vestry Meeting – Wednesday, September 11 – Parish Hall – 6:00 PM – All are welcome to attend.

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 to St. Mark's



We're so glad you are here.

We are a community of believers who come to worship, to pray, to love and to be loved, as we work to ease the burdens we share, living in the twenty-first century. We not only welcome but *embrace* a diverse community of people with different ethnic, racial, sexual orientation and social backgrounds, who may have different ways of being their authentic selves in the world. Our focus is to live into right relationship with each other and all creation as followers of Jesus. We are strengthened by our diversity, as we strive for unity, not uniformity.

So, *please join us*. Bring your gifts and passions, along with your doubts and your curiosity, but most of all, your hearts and minds. There is a place for everyone in God's church, and we may be the place where you can flourish, just as you are, *God's beloved child*.

If I can answer any of your questions, or just be of help to you in any way along your journey, I'd welcome the chance to speak with you personally. Feel free to call me anytime on my cell phone or email me. *And thanks for being with us today!*

Gratefully,
Michael Shaffer +
Interim Rector – St. Mark's Episcopal
frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com
Cell: 843-830-1220
St. Mark's Parish Office: 843-722-0267