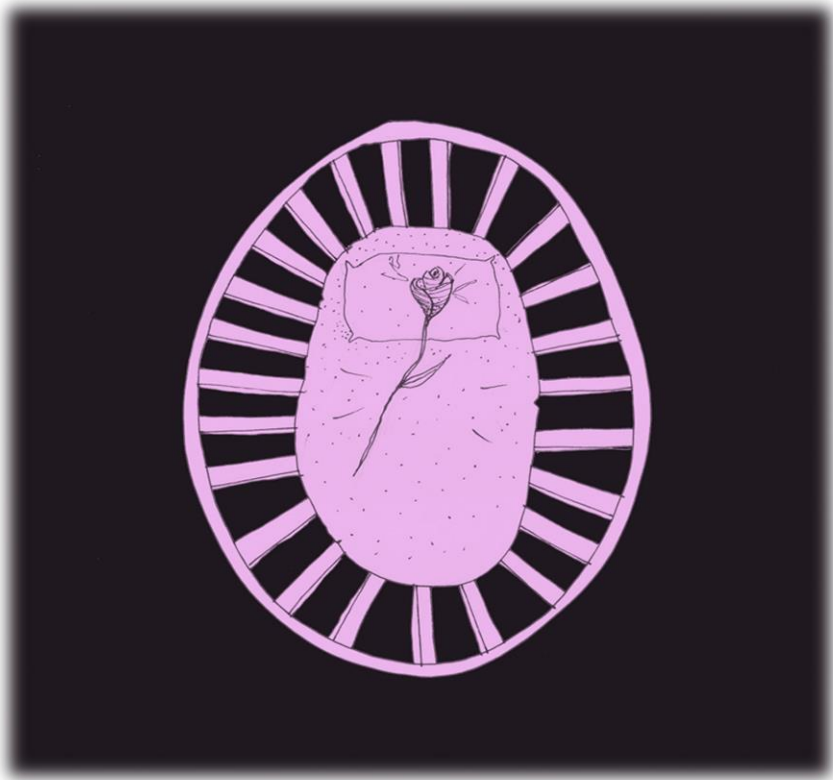


Sixth Sunday after Easter

Holy Eucharist, Rite I - 8:00 am, May 14, 2023



St. Mark's Episcopal Anglican Church

Fairland Parish

Rev. Dr. Christopher I. Wilkins, Rector

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sixth Sunday after Easter

The People stand. The Celebrant says.

Opening Rites

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed Alleluia!

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto 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.*

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.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one

of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: *Jubilate Deo*

Psalm 66:8-20

⁸ Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.

⁹ For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹⁰ You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹¹ You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹² I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹³ I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁴ Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

¹⁵ I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.

¹⁶ If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁷ But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

¹⁸ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

(Versus 19 and 20 are not in BCP – The Psalter)

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not

fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

John 14:15-21

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People: Glory to thee, Lord Christ.

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to thee, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: Athenians

The LEM leads the People as they say

The 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 human.
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 sitteth 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.

A Litany for Mothers' Day

The Intercessor prays.

Loving God, look upon the mothers of young children, and give them energy, patience, and gentleness in the fleeting days of sticky hands, messy homes, and laundry that never ends.

Bless mothers raising school-aged children and teenagers, and give them peace and joy in parenting when it is hard, if also still wonderful.

Bless mothers who watch and wonder at their adult children and the lives they have chosen, and give to them and their children patience, vision, and wisdom.

Bless those mothers who have seen their children taken or given for adoption, and those who have adopted the children of others, that they may know that your love is boundless, and that all of us are from beginning to end your children.

Bless those who have become mothers against their will, that they may know your grace and healing power, and live to see a world in which none need ever endure what they have endured.

Healing God, comfort all people who mourn the loss of their mothers, be it from illness, malice, accident, or poor choices, and bring to them your peace, which passes all understanding.

Comfort those who had hoped to be mothers but whose hopes have not been fulfilled, and those who continue to hope to become mothers.

Ever-present God, embrace and comfort those mothers, and all persons, who mourn the loss of their own children.

Gracious God, help us to see all those who guided us and loved us like mothers shine with the brightness of the love you shine upon each of your children.

Bless us and keep us today in that love and always. In your name we pray. Amen.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

If the confession is not omitted, the Deacon or Celebrant then says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence is kept. The People, led by the LEM, then say

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things,
judge of all who live:

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which
we from time to time most grievously have committed, by
thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking
most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of
them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for
thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in
newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath
promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance
and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver

you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Words of Comfort

A Minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to God.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Mt. 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; the perfect offering for our sins, and not ours only, but the sins of the whole world. *1 Jn 2:1-2*

The Peace

The People stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you,

People: And with thy spirit.

The Ministers and People greet one another.¹

The Deacon or Priest prepares the altar and sanctuary for the Eucharist.

The Holy Eucharist: The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you,

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

¹ *Note: The People greet one another in silence and at physical distance, and there is no passing of plates or reception of gifts.*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

The People, led by the LEM, say

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is the one that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand. The Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." †

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of

the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." †

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the infinite benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, obtain remission of our sins, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.
‡‡

Now, as Christ taught us, we are bold to say,

The People, led by the LEM, pray

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, and then keeps a period of silence.

The Celebrant continues

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The LEM may then lead the People in this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting
in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We
are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table.
But thou art the same Lord whose property it is always to have mercy.
Grant us, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,

and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The People come forward to retrieve the gifts, maintaining physical distance.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *The Celebrant or LEM then leads the People in this prayer*

Almighty, ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us, members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of the faithful; and heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. We beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou preparest for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Announcements

Announcements, if any, are made here.

Blessing and Dismissal

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The LEM says

Let us go forth, in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Celebrant, the LEM, and the People depart, maintaining physical distance.

The Flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God.

*Our services and events may be live-streamed and/or recorded. By entering the service/event premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for live streaming, promotional purposes, advertising, inclusion on web sites, and/or any other purpose by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. *

If you would prefer not to be shown on camera, please sit on the pulpit side of the nave, behind the videographers.

LEM/Reader

Erwin Avila

St. Mark's Announcements

1. **“Scripture or Reason, I am Sure, Do Not Anywhere Say So:” Reading Scripture and Finding Freedom with John Locke.** Sunday, 9:05-10:15am, Parish Hall and via Zoom. Please join us for this critical study of Locke’s use of scripture and reason in laying political and religious foundations for natural rights, democracy, and freedom. No prior reading required. Please see Rev. Wilkins for more information.
2. **Financial Oversight Committee (FOC):** Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:00pm in the library. Please let the Parish Administrator know if you would like to attend this meeting via Zoom.
3. **Funeral for Eleanor (Ellie) Thurber,** Thursday, May 18, 11:00 am, in the Church.
4. **Vestry Meeting:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Please let the Parish Administrator know if you would like to attend this meeting via Zoom.
5. **At-Home Covid-19 Self-Test kits** are available, free of charge, in the church office. There are 2 kits in each box; we will provide one box per person. Please contact Janis Smith, Parish Administrator, or Keira Vargas, Parish Secretary, if you would like a box of test kits. Contact number: 301-622-5860.
6. **Coffee Hour Hosting:** Please consider helping to host the *Coffee Hour* following the 10:30 service. Help is needed with setup, cleanup, and purchasing. There is a sign-up sheet located on the wall beside the coffee pot in the Parish Hall. Instructions on what a host needs to do may be found on the clipboard. We give thanks for all those who help with this ministry of hospitality.

7. **Altar Flowers**: Beginning with Easter and through the season of Epiphany, you may sponsor the Altar Flowers for any Sunday or major feast day in memory of your loved ones, a birthday, an anniversary, or any other suitable occasion - or even just because. The sign-up book with details is in the church office or, on Sundays, in the narthex (at the back of the church). Please contact the office for more information or to support this part of our worship ministry.

8. **Bag Lunches for Elizabeth House**: On the 3rd Sunday of each month, following the 8:00am service, St. Mark's Outreach ministry makes bag lunches for those in need at Elizabeth House. St. Mark's is looking for volunteers to help make these bag lunches. Please contact Linda Toran or the office if you would like to volunteer.

9. **"Good morning" Greeters**: As a welcoming congregation that is now back to in-person worship, we'd like to return to having greeters at the sanctuary doors on Sunday mornings. The main purpose will be to say "Good Morning" to all who enter and point out the location of the bulletins. This would be a separate function from the Usher. If anyone is interested in volunteering, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall near the coffee machine.

Please check your e-letters and the website for the most up-to-date information.

Save the Date

Saturday, June 24, 1:00pm - 4:00pm: Seventh Annual Rockville Pride!
In-Person Event at the Rockville Town Square, free and open to all ages.

Featuring:

- Live performances.

- Information booths and dialogue.
- Arts and crafts/children's activities.

Sunday, July 9-12, 2023: IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE:

A Festival for the Jesus Movement

The churchwide festival takes place in Baltimore, Maryland, and features revival worship and plenary sessions, in addition to workshops.

St. Mark's Mission

- ❖ We will deepen our faith by adopting more liturgical options to reach out into the community.
- ❖ We will extend our outreach by getting more people involved in and reaching more people through community involvement.
- ❖ We will embrace evangelism by choosing to be a church that reaches out to our community and spread the good news of Christ.
- ❖ We will increase our participation by being committed to our church through regular attendance, and giving of our resources of time, talent, and treasure.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fairland, MD

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office@stmarks-silverspring.org * 301-622-5860 ext. 180

Parish Office hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and by appointment.

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Wilkins, Rector

rector@stmarks-silverspring.org * Cell: 301-768-3075 * 301-622-5860 ext. 105

Janis Smith, Parish Administrator

administrator@stmarks-silverspring.org * 301-622-5860 ext. 104

Don Hague, Director of Music

Keira Vargas, Parish Secretary

Pamela Gibson, Senior Warden

Rosanne Tingley, Junior Warden

For information about St. Mark's, please visit our website:

www.stmarksfairland.org * www.stmarks-silverspring.org

We hope that today's service has been a blessing to you.

We are here to serve you, and hope to see you again.

Please feel free to call us, email us, or visit us online.

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