



# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Called to be Christ Centered

Touching Lives + Transforming Hearts + Teaching God's Word

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**The Third Sunday of Easter**  
***Holy Eucharist and The Rite of Confirmation***  
**Sunday, April 19, 2026, 9:30 AM**

*Please join us in the Parish Hall for a reception with  
the Bishop and Confirmands after the service.*



**Organist**  
**Prelude**

“Clair de lune”

**Shayne Doty**  
**Louis Vierne**

**Processional Hymn**

“The Day of Resurrection”

**Hymnal p. 210**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

*The people standing, the Bishop says*

Alleluia. Christ is risen,

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

**Bishop**            There is one Body and one Spirit;

**People**            *There is one hope in God’s call to us;*

**Bishop**            One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**People**            *One God and Father of all.*

**Bishop**            The Lord be with you.

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

**Bishop**            Let us pray.

## **The Collect of the Day**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **First Lesson**

**Acts 2:14a,36-41**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God*

## **Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17**

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD \*  
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD's house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

## **The Epistle**

## **1 Peter 1:17-23**

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.



while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord  
*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## The Sermon

**Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin,**  
*VII Bishop, Diocese of Western North Carolina*

## Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

p.415

*Each candidate stands as their name is called.*

*Bishop* The Candidates will now be presented

*Clergy* We present these persons for confirmation.

*Bishop* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidates* *I do.*

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidates* *I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.*

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying,*

*Bishop* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People* *We will.*

*Bishop* Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

*All Stand.*

## The Baptismal Covenant

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* *I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.*

*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* *I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.*

*He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*Bishop*  
*People*

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.*

*Bishop*

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People*

*I will, with God's help.*

*Bishop*

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People*

*I will, with God's help.*

*Bishop*

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People*

*I will, with God's help.*

*Bishop*

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People*

*I will, with God's help.*

*Bishop*

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People*

*I will, with God's help.*

*The Bishop then says to the congregation,*

Let us now pray for those who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*Leader*

Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People*

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Leader*

Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

*People*

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Leader*

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*People*

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Leader*

Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**People**            **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**            Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**People**            **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**            Send them into the world in witness to your love.

**People**            **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**            Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**People**            **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*A period of silence follows. Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Each candidate is called by name and comes forward with their family, friends and sponsors.*

*Confirmations:* Emma Katherine Griffin – St. Mark’s, Jessie Adam Paradise – St. Mark’s, Steven Maggese – All Saints, Brent Douglas Grigg – Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

### **For Confirmation**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. **Amen.**

*or this*

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Peace is then exchanged*

**Bishop**            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Please greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Birthday Prayer**

**p 830**

**Anniversary Prayer**

**p 431**

**Announcements**

## **The Liturgy of the Table**

*All the baptized are welcome to receive the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ. Gluten free bread is available upon request. As the wine is served at the communion rail, communicants may drink from the first chalice, or intinct (dip) their bread into the second chalice. The celebrant will say, "Go in peace" when all at the rail have been communed. Exit the chancel through the sacristy doors to the left and right. Let an usher know if you desire communion be brought to your pew.*

### **The Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

**The Offertory**

**"Tierce en taille"**

**Nicholas de Grigny**

*Our loose plate offering today goes to support the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.*

**Presentation Hymn:**

**The Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God above ye heavenly host:*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

**Eucharistic Prayer A**

**p 361**

*The people remain standing.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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 S138

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

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*

**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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the 'Alleluia' chorus. The second staff contains the beginning of the 'Christ our Pass-over' verse. The third staff contains the middle of the verse. The fourth staff contains the second line of the 'Alleluia' chorus.

*The Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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.

<b>Communion Hymn</b>	<b>“One Bread, One Body”</b>	<b>LEVAS p.151</b>
<b>Communion Hymn</b>	<b>“In Remembrance of Me”</b>	<b>LEVAS p.149</b>
<b>Communion Hymn</b>	<b>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</b>	<b>LEVAS p.152</b>
<b>Communion Hymn</b>	<b>“Break Thou the Bread of Life”</b>	<b>LEVAS p.146</b>
<b>Communion Hymn</b>	<b>“Taste and See”</b>	<b>LEVAS p.154</b>

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing**

**Recessional** “Alleluia sing to Jesus” **Hymnal p.460v. 1, 3, 4**

**Dismissal**

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Adult Christian Education Series (ACE)***

***“Promises, Promises!”***

Our Baptismal Covenant Promises are far more than words. They are fundamental to our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus Christ and intended to be a way of life – a way of life that truly reflects the life-changing and sacramental depth of Holy Baptism, and for that matter, all of the sacraments.

This 3-part series delves into the intent of each of the promises and offers some practical guidance on how to make those words, “I will, with God’s help” a reality in your life *and* the life of our parish as we enter the discernment process of calling our next Rector.

Our series begins on **Sunday, April 26** exploring the **origin** of our Baptismal Covenant and, specifically, the question: **“Who is my Neighbor?”** The following two weeks (**May 3 and 10**) will explore what it means to: **“Repent and Return to the Lord.”**

Classes will be held at **10:45 am** in the **High School Room** (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor). All are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring along a copy of The Book of Common Prayer, your preferred Bible translation, as well as a pen and paper.

## To Our Guests

If you are traveling or visiting family and friends from out of town, we wish you a safe and peaceful journey. If you are seeking a church home and looking for a new or deeper relationship with God, we hope that you will take some time and just be among us. We want to learn who you are and share with you on your spiritual journey.

### CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin.....	<i>Interim Priest</i>
The Ven. Brenda M. Gilbert.....	<i>Archdeacon, Dio. of Western NC</i>
The Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson.....	<i>Deacon</i>
Ms. Dionne Browning.....	<i>Business Administrator</i>
Ms. Debbie Brake.....	<i>Nursery</i>
Ms. Beverly Bieker.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>
Mr. Kris Kiser.....	<i>Church Sexton</i>

### CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Mr. Eric Lampke, '27.....	<i>Senior Warden, Bldgs-Grounds</i>
Mrs. Judy Jackson Malina, '26.....	<i>Junior Warden, Outreach</i>
Dr. Blaine Rudisill, '26.....	<i>Pastoral Care</i>
Mrs. Suzanne Whatley, '25.....	<i>Parish Life</i>
Mrs. Fe McLaughlin, '26.....	<i>Parish Life, Newcomers</i>
Ms. Marilyn Walters, '26.....	<i>In-reach</i>
Mr. George Sowersby, '27.....	<i>Buildings and Grounds</i>
Mrs. Pat Townsend, '27.....	<i>In-reach</i>
Ms. Dionne R. Browning.....	<i>Vestry Clerk</i>
Mr. Steve Campbell.....	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs. Kenna Watts.....	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>