



**St. Mark's City Heights
Episcopal Church**
MANOS DE DIOS - WE ARE GOD'S HANDS

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday July 26, 2026

Join online at 9:45 am tinyurl.com/stmarkszoom

If this is your first time worshipping at St. Mark's, we welcome you! Wherever you are on your journey of faith we are glad you are here, and we invite you to join us in all that we do. If you are joining us online today and would like to have Holy Communion brought to your home please email Fr. Richard at fr.richard@stmarks-cityheights.org

The in-person service is being streamed live and pictures may be taken during the service. If you don't wish to be seen on camera or to be photographed, please ask someone at the welcome table for appropriate seating.

Welcoming Prayer

Holy Spirit living within us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome today all those who worship with us as part of the St. Mark's family. Give us discerning hearts so that everyone who worships with us feels welcomed in the spirit of your love. Help us to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. And most of all, O God, let this community be a place of love and acceptance of all your children; in the name of your child, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gathering Hymn Morning Has Broken Vs 1,2, and 3 Hymnal 8

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!

The Introduction

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Kyrie Eleison

Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.
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Presider Let us confess our sins to God. *[Silence may be kept.]*

Absolution

2

The Collect

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Readings

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

Psalms 119:105-112 Read responsively by reading the **bold** text.

English followed by Spanish below

LECTOR 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**ALL 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.**

3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.**

5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

**6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.**

7 He is the Lord our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.

**8 He has always been mindful of his covenant,
the promise he made for a thousand generations:**

9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,

**10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,**

11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."

45b Hallelujah!

SPANISH

LECTOR 1 ¡Den gracias a Dios! ¡Invoquen su nombre! *
Proclamen sus obras entre las naciones

**TODO 2 ¡Cántenle, cántenle alabanzas! *
¡Anuncien todas sus maravillas!**

3 Deléitense en su santo nombre; *
alégrese el corazón de quien lo busca.

**4 Busquen su poder en Dios; *
procuren siempre su semblante.**

5 Recuerden las maravillas que hizo, *
sus prodigios y los juicios de su boca,

**6 ustedes, hijas de su siervo Abraham, *
e hijos de Jacob, sus elegidos.**

7 Él es Dios, nuestro Señor; *

sus decretos son ley sobre la tierra entera.

**8 Se acuerda siempre de su pacto, *
su palabra ordenada por mil generaciones.**

9 Selló su pacto con Abraham, *
hizo su juramento con Isaac,

**10 y lo estableció por ley para Jacob, *
para Israel como pacto eterno:**

11 Dijo: «A ti daré la tierra de Canaán *
como porción de tu heredad».

45b ¡Aleluya!

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

The Gospel Hymn Surely the Presence of the Lord 2 X's through Renew 167

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and his 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. (Repeat)

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Sermon Fr. Richard

The Nicene Creed

People 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 of 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. 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.**

The Prayers of the People: the response to each bidding is: **Hear our prayer.**

Blessing of Backpacks (*We invite you to stretch out your hand(s) toward the backpacks.*)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God of Wisdom, bless these backpacks and everything they contain. May they be a sign to those who use them that they have what they need to learn and grow, and may they feel the love and care of those who provided them. Bless the students who will use these backpacks. Be with them throughout the upcoming school year, especially in times of challenge and struggle. Help them to make friends that build one another up, and to be friends to those who need them. Keep them safe from harm and grant them health of body, mind, and spirit. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our teacher and guide. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements, Blessings for birthdays and anniversaries.

For a Birthday

O God, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and joy as we celebrate this/these birthday(s). Thank you for this special day, for the gift of life, and for the opportunity to celebrate another year together. In your Holy name we pray. Amen.

For an Anniversary

O God, we thank and praise You for the gift of this anniversary and the love and joy that it brings. Pour out we pray, Your love, joy, grace and peace into the hearts of all who are celebrating this day. We pray that in this remembrance, that you join each of us closer, to each other, and to You. Amen.

The Offertory *The Table is prepared*

The Doxology *Hymnal 380 Vs 3 Tune Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow: Praise Him all crea-tures

here be - low; Praise Him a - bove ye heav - 'nly

host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship Eucharistic Prayer 1

<i>Presider</i>	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
<i>Presider</i>	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Presider</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body.

Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus *Argentine Santo, Santo, Santo WLP 785*

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with St. Mark and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, in the language of our own heart.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

The Invitation

Presider This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him, and for those who want to love him more. So, come, those who

have much faith and those who have little, those who have been here often and those who have not been here long, those who have tried to follow and those who have failed. Come, not because the Church invites us; it is Christ, and he invites us to meet him here.

Presider 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.

The Prayer of Spiritual Communion For Those On Zoom

Presider We know that some of us are joining this morning on zoom, and although they can not physically receive the holy sacraments, they can receive in their hearts.

People **In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed body and blood are offered, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart, my soul, and my mind. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing separate me from You; let me serve You in this life until, by Your grace, I join You in Your reign of unending peace. Amen.**

All are invited and welcome to receive communion. We will be offering communion in both kinds: bread & wine. As you come forward to receive communion the priest will be standing in the center, in front of the altar and will give you the bread into your hand. If you would like to also receive the wine, you can either drink from the chalice (in which case, after receiving the bread, go to the altar server on the left) or have the bread intincted (dipped) into the wine and given to you (in which case go to the altar server on the right after receiving the bread.) If you would like to receive the bread only please return to your seat after receiving it. If you would prefer not to receive the bread and wine but receive a blessing, please cross your hands over your chest.

If you would like to receive gluten free bread please tell the priest.

Communion Hymn

I Come with Joy

Renew 195

Post Communion Prayer

People **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.**

Sending Out of Eucharistic Ministers with Home Communion

Presider In the name of God, we send you forth to share communion with those who are not able to be with us today.

People **As you have been fed, now feed others.**

Presider Our prayers are with you, go in peace.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Blessing

Sending Hymn How Great Thou Art Vs 1 and 4 Renew 250

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!, Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art."

Dismissal

Priest: Our worship service this morning has ended, our service to the world continues. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Musician | We welcome and thank Angie Serrano for being with us today while Kirk is away.

Back To School Bash #14 is this Saturday, August 1 |

Volunteer sign up list for Saturday's event is still available. Look for it on the big brown table after church today, or see Thérèse Questions, contact Chris Nolan: chrisn@stmarks-cityheights.org

Food Pantry | It's summer time which means that our regular pantry volunteers are taking vacation and/or traveling. If you can step in on Wed and/or Thu morning (even if just for one or two weeks), please contact Joanna: jonnas@stmarks-cityheights.org or Chris: chrisn@stmarks-cityheights.org