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

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 8, 2026

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

If this is your first time worshiping 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 All Hail the Power of Jesus Name Vs 1,2, and 3 Renew 45

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race
ye ransomed from the fall,

hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!

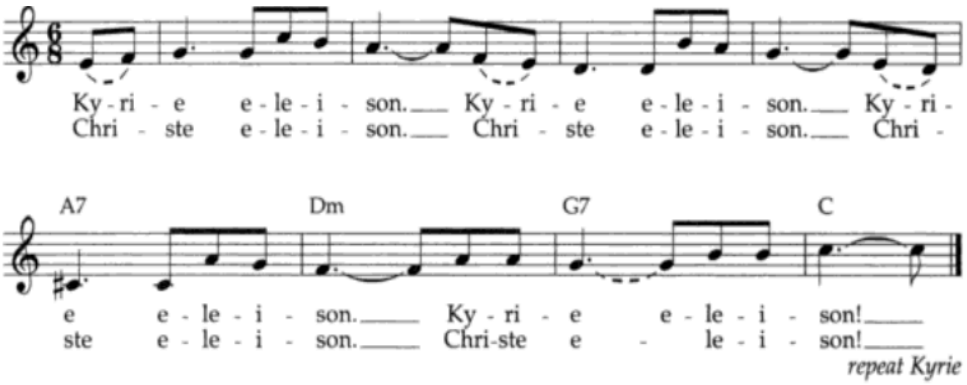
The Introduction

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Presider 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.

Kyrie Eleison



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Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins to God. *[Silence may be kept.]*

People **God of all mercy,**
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Collect

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

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Readings

A reading from the Book of Joshua **Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the

peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

Psalm 78:1-7 Read responsively by reading the **bold** text.

English followed by Spanish below

LECTOR: 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

ESPANOL
LECTOR:1 Atiende, pueblo mío, mi enseñanza; *
inclina el oído a las palabras de mi boca.

**2 Abriré mi boca en parábolas; *
declararé los enigmas de tiempos antiguos.**

3 Lo que hemos oído y conocido,
lo que nuestros antepasados nos contaron, *
no lo encubriremos de sus hijos.

**4 Contaremos a las generaciones venideras
las hazañas loables del Señor,
y su poder, * y las maravillas que ha hecho.**

5 Entregó sus decretos a Jacob;
estableció su ley en Israel, *
y mandó que la enseñasen a sus hijos;

**6 Para que lo supieran las generaciones siguientes
y los hijos aún por nacer, *
y para que a su vez lo contaran a sus hijos;**

7 A fin de que pusieran en Dios su confianza,
y no se olvidaran de las obras de Dios, *
sino que guardaran sus mandamientos;

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will

descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

The Gospel Hymn *Sanctuary* **Renew 185**

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you. **[Repeat]**

The Gospel **Matthew 25:1-13**

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

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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.**

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

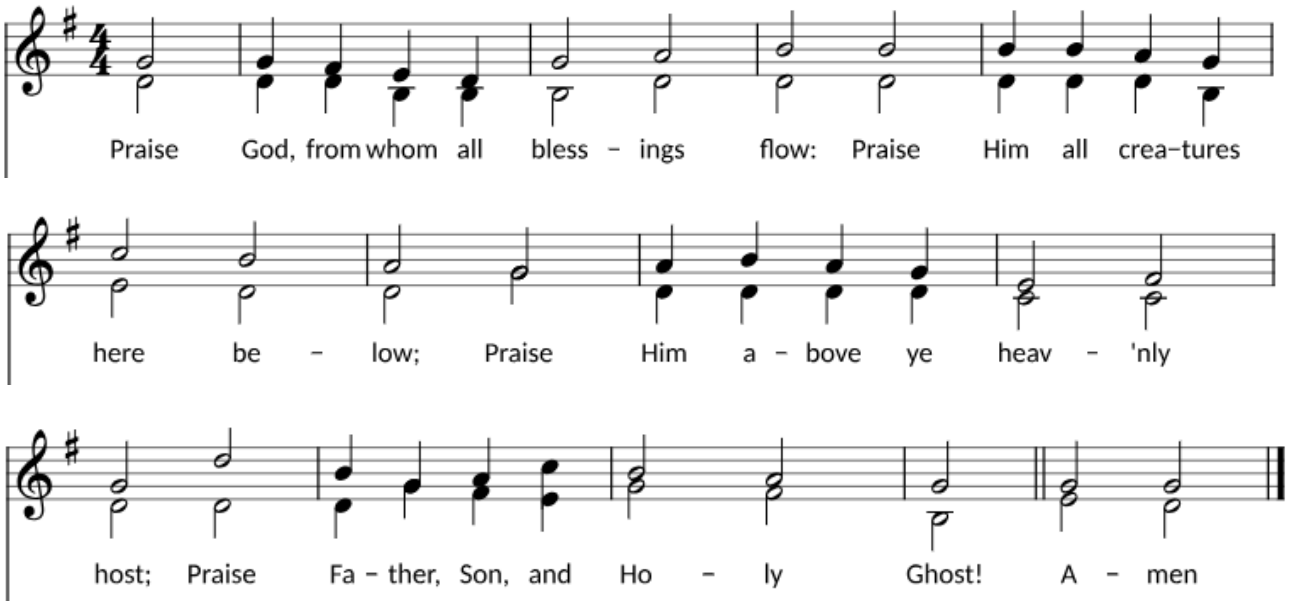
O God, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and joy as we celebrate this/these birthday(s). Thank you for this special day, for the gift of life, and for the opportunity to celebrate another year together. In your Holy name we pray. Amen.

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***



The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship Eucharistic Prayer 1

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider 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*



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 Eat This Bread Renew 228

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 **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Vs 1,2, and 3 Hymnal 376**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
field and forest, vale and mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother:
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

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

Stewardship Season | Today we enter our annual stewardship season, this year with the theme **Plenty Good Room**, Stewardship is our faithful reply to God's generosity; it is our thanksgiving put into practice. When we share our resources, we widen our welcome and expand the table. Your pledge directly sustains our inclusive worship, our outreach programs that support our community here in City Heights and all that we do at St. Mark's.

November Choir Practice | Kirk Valles, our music director invites everyone to choir rehearsals on: Sunday November 15 directly after service & Tuesday November 17 at 6 pm. Remember: Singing is praying twice!

Food Pantry Needs | We always need **snack items (granola bars, chips, cookies, etc)** and **non-perishable canned goods**. Cash donations always multiply your impact (we can buy 24 cans of peanut butter for $5.00 and 24 bags of rice for $6.00) if that's easier for you. Make checks payable to St. Mark's or give online and mark you gift 'pantry'.

Thanksgiving Food Bag Distribution | We will be hosting Christ Church **Thanksgiving food distribution** at St. Mark's on **Thursday, Nov. 19th**. We need **additional volunteers** for that day **(9:00 am - Noon)** if you're able to help out, contact Joanna Smith: joannas@stmarks-cityheights.org or Chris Nolan: chrisn@stmarks-cityheights.org

Got Freezer Room? | On **Nov. 17th**, we will receive 15 turkeys (frozen) to later cook and use for Joy to the World. Are you able to **store a turkey or two in your freezer** for a few weeks? If so, please **email Joanna Smith** or 619-876-8544.

Thanksgiving Week: Call for Extra Pantry Hands | We expect **more people on Wednesday, November 25th**, if you're able to help out for a few hours (between 9 am - 12 noon), let Joanna know.

Pantry Holiday | **Thursday, November 26th**, the pantry will be closed for Thanksgiving Day.

Congratulations Shan | We congratulate **Shan McDonald** for obtaining his diocesan ***Lay Evangelist License***. After finishing the training and fulfilling all other requirements, Shan is now officially licensed by our Episcopal Diocese of San Diego to share the Good News of Jesus within our walls at St. Mark's and beyond our walls in the wider community.