



SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

An inclusive fellowship called by God, through Christ, to love and serve the world.



The Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026

St. Mark's Newest Parishioners: The Story

By Jane Forsythe

It was a dark and stormy night on the little island of Iona, Scotland.

The Bishop of Cheddarbury had gathered his vestry in St. Columba's Abbey to prepare for the fierce winds and blinding rains battering Iona from every direction. They carried buckets up to the steeple, hoping to catch the floodwaters before they poured down into the chapel.

In those frightening moments, even over the booming thunder, the choirmistress, Brie Fontina, bravely led them in singing, "*Lift High the Cross!*"

But their courage was shaken as the steeple began to tremble and teeter. In their distress, the Rev. Grace Gouda gathered them into a corner and began to pray. The little mice knelt on their furry haunches and cried out for faith, trust, and deliverance.

Even as they praised God in the midst of the storm, the ancient tower began to collapse! They huddled together and kept praying—and suddenly, out of the chaos, Marcus—the great bronze lion with angel wings—swooped down and gathered them into his flaming red mane.

He flew higher and higher, trying to rise above the raging winds. But the storm was too strong, and all he could do was ride the currents and hope to find a safe place to land.

At last, he saw a patch of land, and as the wind began to calm, he descended, landing softly in the pluff mud of Cypress Wetlands. *Is that not miraculous, y'all?*

The band of refugees set out, searching for shelter. As they walked along the pond, they noticed that Angus Bleu, the Highlander, had stopped.

"I am blind!" he sobbed. Sister Sophia of Stilton rushed to him with her prayer shawl and gently wiped away his tears. In doing so, she also cleared the mud from his eyes—and he could see again.

Just then, they heard church bells ringing nearby. Thomas Camembert, also known as Courageous Thomas, led them toward the sound—toward St. Mark's Church—where the bells were calling, "*Come and see.*"

And so, the mice have come to rest here in the church with us. *(Please don't tell the Junior Warden—so he won't call the exterminator!)*

Let us hope they stay with us for a while... they might have something to teach us!

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

WELCOME

Prelude

Lamb of God

Arr. Twila Paris

Processional Hymn

Hail, Thou once despised Jesus

Hymn 495

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant 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.**

Hymn of Praise

Gloria in excelsis

Hymn S280

**Glory to God in the highest
And peace to God's people on earth
Lord God, Heavenly King
Almighty God and Father
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the father: receive our prayer,
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.**

THE FIRST LESSON *(Please be seated.)***Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.**THE RESPONSE****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 SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 1:17-23

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

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.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

Sequence Hymn (*Please stand.*) *Now the green blade riseth*

Hymn 204

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

Deacon The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, 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.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Jenny Newman

(A period of silence follows the sermon)

THE NICENE CREED *(Please stand.)*

Sing to the tune Hymn 686

**We believe in God the Father, God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Savior, Son of God in human frame,
virgin born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came.
Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above;
saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Savior, Lord and friend,
We shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to the God of resurrection, saying, In resurrection hope, we lift our prayers to you.

For your Church throughout the world, especially St. James-Santee Episcopal Church, McClellanville, and on the Anglican Cycle of Prayer for The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma), that we may bear joyful witness to the risen Christ and live as signs of your beloved community: In resurrection hope, **we lift our prayers to you.**

For the nations and their leaders, that peace may rise where there is conflict and justice flourish where there is oppression: In resurrection hope, **we lift our prayers to you.**

For those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Amy, Ann, Bob, Bonnie, Catherine, Charlie, Christian, Clydette, Duane, Hollis, Jane, Jim, Judy, Katherine, Lettie, Mark, Mary, Mike, Patti, Patty, Stephanie, Steven and Susan and for those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts...that they may know your comfort and healing: In resurrection hope, **we lift our prayers to you.**

For those who have died, that they may rest in the peace of Christ and rise in glory: In resurrection hope, **we lift our prayers to you.**

For this community, that we may love one another deeply and serve Christ in all whom we meet: In resurrection hope, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Celebrant God of life, by the resurrection of your Son you have given hope to all the world: Receive the prayers we offer this day, and make us faithful witnesses to the victory of your love; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

(During the Great Fifty Days of Easter, we sometimes omit the Confession to emphasize the season's joyful focus on Christ's resurrection and our new life in him. We gather already reconciled in Christ, and the liturgy begins from that reality. In Eastertide especially, we remember that grace overcomes our sin.)

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

All greet one another in the Peace of Christ, after which they take their seats.

Announcements

Vestry Person on Duty

Children's Moment

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

All the earth will sing for joy

Arr. Ruth Schram

(Please stand as the offering is taken to the altar.)

Presentation Hymn

Hymn 380

**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. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Scottish Episcopal Eucharistic Prayer IV

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.

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world. You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. He lives in us that we may walk in light. Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy

Hymn S125

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden, the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your children.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. **Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves a single, holy living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all God's children living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 FRACTION *(The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.)*

Fraction Anthem

Hymn S154

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.
Behold what you are, the Body of Christ.
Become what you receive, the Body of Christ.

This is God's table. All are welcome!
(Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

There is no "correct" way to receive communion; you cannot mess it up. Typically, one holds out one's hand to receive the bread. You may either consume the bread and sip the wine from the chalice or intinct (dip) the bread into the wine. If you would prefer not to receive communion, you may still go forward and cross your arms over your chest for a blessing.

Communion Hymn *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless* **Hymn 343**

Hymn After Communion **Taize**

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.
(Repeat three times. Stand on the third round.)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Please stand.)*

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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 Hymn *Come ye faithful, raise the strain* **Hymn 199**

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in peace to love and serve God's world.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude *Come ye faithful, raise the strain*

SERVING TODAY AT 9:00 AM

Acolyte: Patsy Taylor; **Lectors:** Scott Peters & Kathlyn Gray
Eucharistic Ministers: Gordon Mabie & Kathlyn Gray
Usher/Greeter: Charles Pinkham & Jane Forsythe;
Vestry Person on Duty: Kathlyn Gray; **Sacristan:** Sally Mayse;
Videographer: Aly Dennison

SERVING TODAY AT 11:00 AM

Acolyte: Susan Grimes; **Lectors:** Laura Nehf & George Utter
Eucharistic Ministers: George Utter & Barney Forsythe
Usher/Greeter: Bill Grimes & Quitman Marshall
Vestry Person on Duty: Bill Grimes; **Sacristan:** Sally Dombly
Sunday School: Glenda Lee Nutting & Judy Utter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS! We're glad you could join us this morning. Visitor name tags are available from the ushers. Please fill out an information card if you'd like to be contacted, placed on our mailing list, and/or receive a permanent name tag.

NURSERY (3 & under) and CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL (4 & up) is located at the Center during the 11:00 AM service.

RESTROOMS are located off the community room adjoining the back of the church and are accessible during the service via the outside ramp to the side door.

APRIL HUNGER AWARENESS St. Mark's and local congregations are partnering with HELP of Beaufort on the "piggy" bank project to support seniors facing food insecurity. Please remember to return your filled SPAM "piggy banks" to an usher on Sundays or to the Center (Tues–Thurs, 9 AM–1 PM). The deadline is Sunday, April 26. Thank you!

CALMING THE WATERS Join Kevin de l'Aigle, certified yoga teacher, for an inclusive series of mindfulness, gentle movement, breathwork, and guided meditation on Mondays, beginning May 2nd at 10am at St. Mark's. Open to all—no experience or flexibility required. Come for loving kindness, peace, and community.

OUR PARISH SPRING PICNIC will be Sunday, May 17th. This will also be our first Sunday moving to one service at 10am. We will continue with only one Sunday service through the summer. Reach out to Jane Frederick to learn how you can support the Parish Picnic.

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR: Mary Bryan, Judy Parichy, Bonnie Connolly, Molly Wolford, Linda Jones, Tom Tull, Duane and Jane Twenge, Lettie Stoops, Mike Dobby, Jim Sweeney, Hollis, Christian Buchmann, Ann Frias, Amy Christian, Charlie Hart, Stephanie Peters, Steven Sonders, Patty Crower, Clydette Mc Daniel, Catherine Guerrero, Susan Kearney and Mark Kube.

PLEASE PRAY ALSO for friends of St. Mark's parishioners: Rhonda Adams, Nadija Peterson (our St. Mark's scholarship recipient), Joyce Goodwine and Dan Snook.

SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Right Reverend Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, **Bishop**

The Reverend Jenny Newman, **Rector**

The Reverend Ken Kraft, **Deacon**

Choir Director and Pianist, Dr. Carol Hyde

Director of Programs, Carter Hoyt

Director of Formation, Glenda Lee Nutting

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