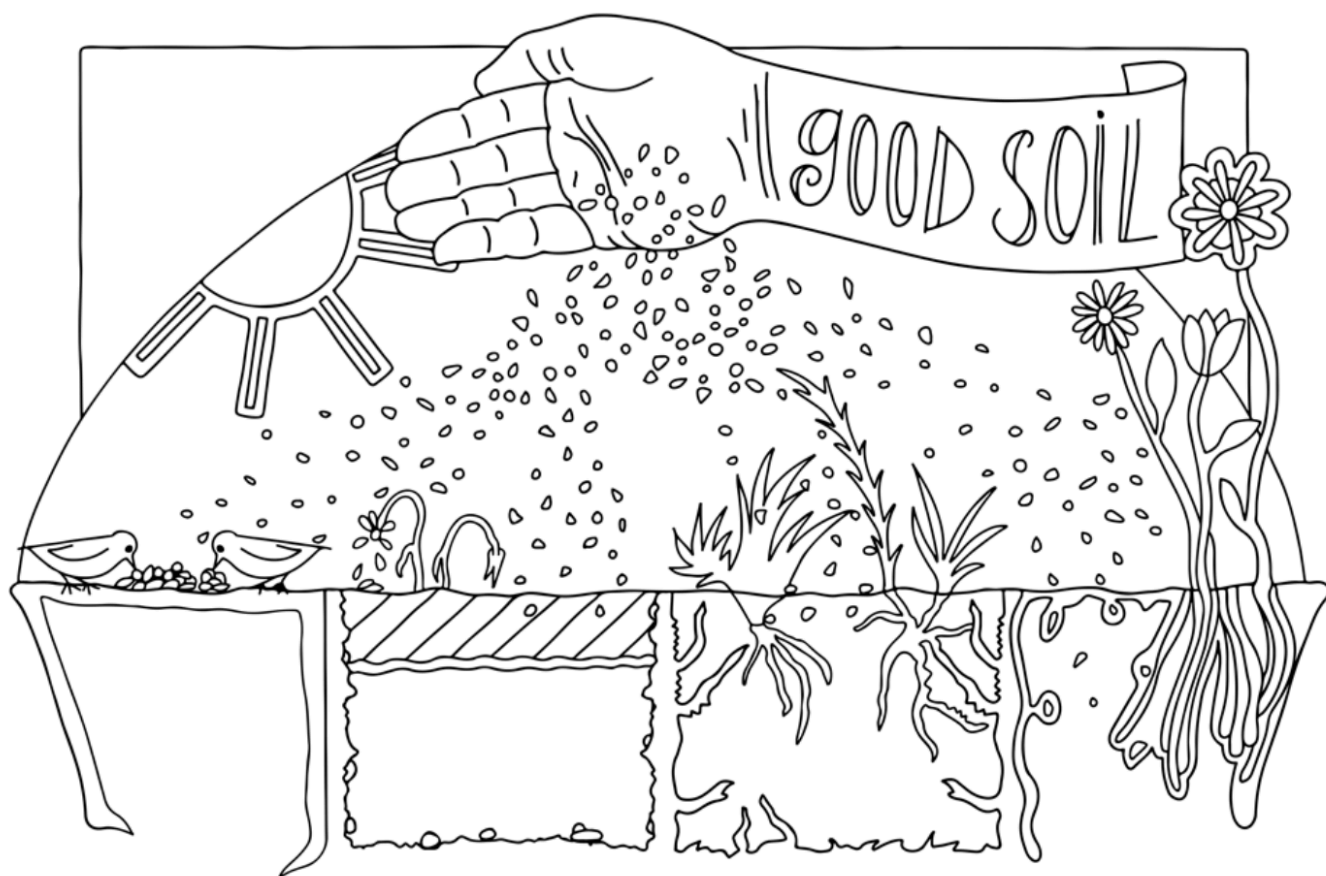


# Rogation Sunday



May 25, 2025

St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

# **Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!**

Name tags are available. We'd love to make one for you if you do not have one already.

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe," and feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table, where there are weekly activity bulletins and crayons.

Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:30 am.  
Our YouTube channel link is available on our website,  
[stmarksandstjohns.org](http://stmarksandstjohns.org).

We appreciate your financial generosity to support our mission and ministry. Though we do not pass the offering plate during service, you can find it at the entrance of the church or contribute online at [stmarksandstjohns.org/give](http://stmarksandstjohns.org/give).

# **Today is Rogation Sunday!**

## **What does that mean?**

Rogation comes from the Latin word "rogatio," meaning "asking" or "beseeching". Rogation Sunday and the following Rogation Days are a time to ask God for blessings and guidance.

### **Purpose:**

Rogation Days traditionally involve praying for the blessing of the land, its resources, and the well-being of all its inhabitants. We gather to acknowledge our interconnectedness to one another and the land. Rogation is not just about celebrating our cooperation in the fields or sharing the workload but it is about experiencing and sharing God's love as the Creator of heaven and earth.

### **Practice:**

There is a tradition of "beating the bounds" whereby processions stopped at boundary marks and other significant parish landmarks with special prayers, processions, and sometimes fasting.

### **Stewardship:**

Rogation observances can also be an opportunity to reflect on our responsibility as stewards of God's creation and the importance of caring for the environment.

### **Historical Roots:**

The practice of Rogation Days has roots in the 5th century in France, where they were observed after a series of natural disasters. They were originally days of fasting and prayer known as "Grass Days." Rogare' is Latin for 'to ask.' Rogationtide is a festival primarily focused on the planting season to ask for an abundant harvest in light of calamities such as war, disease, bad weather and natural disasters.


## PRELUDE

### OPENING MUSIC

### "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

1982 Hymnal, 405

*Refrain*




All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,



he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.  
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,  
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*One:* Alleluia! Christ has risen.

*All:* Christ has risen indeed. Alleluia!

*One:* Sow for yourselves righteousness;

reap steadfast love;

break up your fallow ground;

for it is time to seek the Lord,

that he may come and rain righteousness upon us. (*Hosea 10:12*)

## OPENING PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Gracious and loving God, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 38:27-32

*A reading from the book of Sirach, the thirty-eighth chapter...*

So it is with every artisan and master artisan  
who labours by night as well as by day;  
those who cut the signets of seals,  
each is diligent in making a great variety;  
they set their heart on painting a lifelike image,  
and they are careful to finish their work.  
So it is with the smith, sitting by the anvil,  
intent on his ironwork;  
the breath of the fire melts his flesh,  
and he struggles with the heat of the furnace;  
the sound of the hammer deafens his ears,  
and his eyes are on the pattern of the object.  
He sets his heart on finishing his handiwork,  
and he is careful to complete its decoration.  
So it is with is the potter sitting at his work  
and turning the wheel with his feet;

he is always deeply concerned over his products,  
and he produces them in quantity.

He moulds the clay with his arm  
and makes it pliable with his feet;  
he sets his heart on finishing the glazing,  
and he takes care in firing the kiln.

All these rely on their hands,  
and all are skilful in their own work.  
Without them no city can be inhabited,  
and wherever they live, they will not go hungry.  
Yet they are not sought out for the council of the people,

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 107:1-9

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.

**2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

**4 Some wandered in desert wastes; \*  
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.**

5 They were hungry and thirsty; \*  
their spirits languished within them.

6 **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, \***  
**and he delivered them from their distress.**

7 He put their feet on a straight path \*  
to go to a city where they might dwell.

8 **Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy \***  
**and the wonders he does for his children.**

9 For he satisfies the thirsty \*  
and fills the hungry with good things.

## THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:19-22

*A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, the third chapter*

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now.

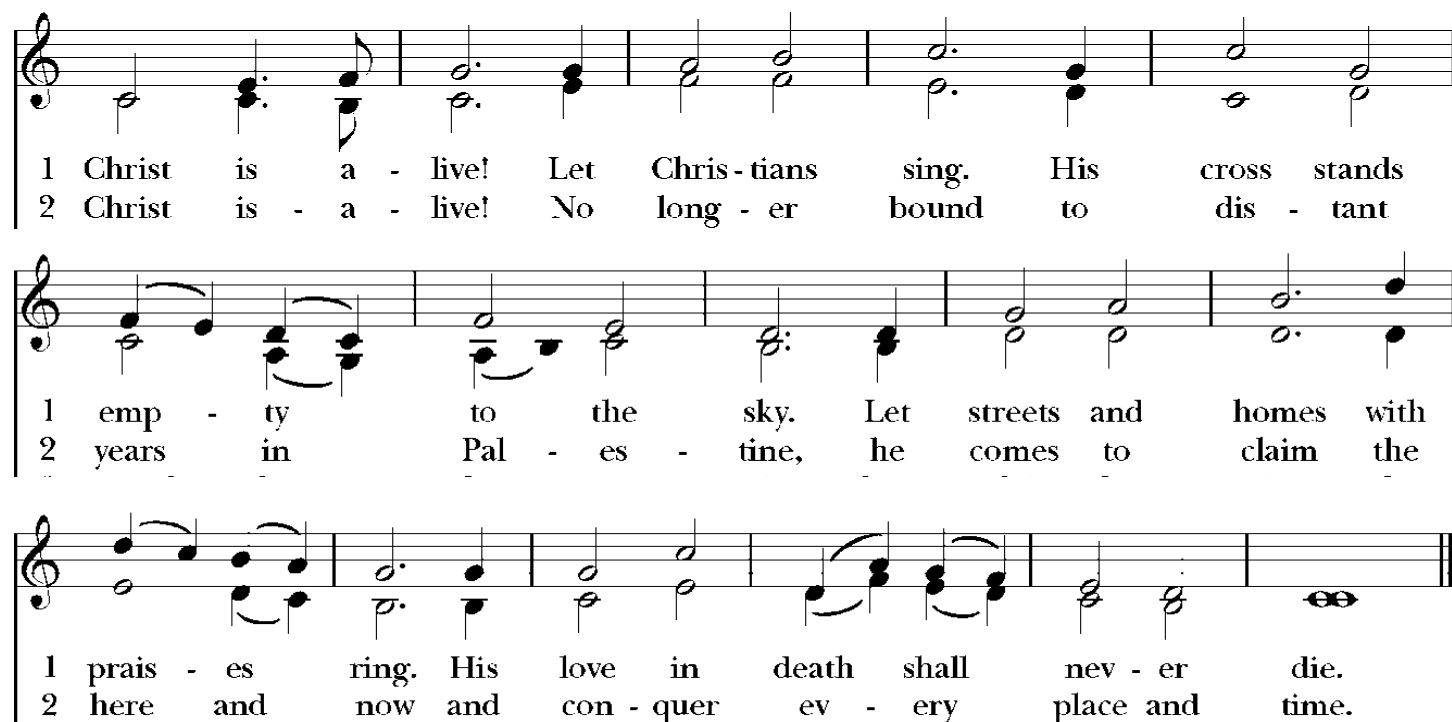
*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## "Christ is Alive"

1982, 182



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 6:19-24

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!



“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

*One:* The Gospel of our Lord.

*All:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## SERMON

Pastor Cindy

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Community of Iona Abbey*

We believe in God  
in whom is power and compassion.

We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe,  
set solar systems dancing into space,  
shaped molecules and mountains,  
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.  
God's power topples tyrants,  
and brings down walls of separation;  
God's love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father,  
encouraging and caring for each of us.

We believe in Jesus, born in poverty in an occupied land;  
a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.  
He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,  
spoke truth with courage and clarity,  
forgave his enemies and changed lives.  
In his living, dying and rising again he showed  
love strong enough to save the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who sustains, comforts and empowers us,  
opens the scriptures, opens our minds,  
and illuminates earth's darkness. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION *Please be seated.*

*You are invited to light a candle at our prayer table and write your prayer intentions on one of the Prayer Boards during the music.*

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE (ROGATION SUNDAY)

Let us ask the God of creation to send a blessing upon us.

Upon the rich earth send a blessing, God of Creation.

Let the earth be fruitful and its resources be hallowed.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon human labour send a blessing, God of Creation.

Prosper the work of our hands;

may all find dignity and just reward in their work;

may those temporarily unable to work find purpose in their days;

free the exploited and oppressed.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, God of Creation.

Guide us into a sustainable future,

and give us the will to share the fruits of the world.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, God of Creation.

Teach us to cherish the water of the earth,

and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

Upon aid agencies send a blessing, God of Creation.

Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry;  
where war brings want, and children go hungry;  
where the poor cry out for bread and for justice,  
give hands to care and heal and compel us to be generous.

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

For your life giving spirit and your promise to always be with us.  
We pray for those who are experiencing pain, sadness, distress, or  
uncertainty that you may provide relief to their suffering.

We pray especially today for...

We ask in faith: **we ask you to hear us, good Lord.**

*Celebrant:* We ask you to hear us, good Lord, for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

*One:* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*All:* **And also with you.**

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*One:* I appeal to you, brothers and sisters in Christ, by the mercies of  
God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to  
God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

*We do not pass an offering plate at SMSJ. If you would like to make a financial gift to  
the mission and ministry of the church there is an offering plate by the sign-in  
book in the back or you can give electronically by going to [stmarksandstjohns.org](http://stmarksandstjohns.org)*

*Eucharistic Ministers bring the elements and offering forward*

DOXOLOGY

*"Let all Things Now Living"*

*VE, 107*

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, who fash - ioned and  
made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who still guides us  
on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, his  
light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the  
night, till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is  
ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.

The musical score is written on seven staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who still guides us on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night, till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light."

## MUSIC

“Crowded Table”

***Refrain:*** I want a church with a crowded table  
And a place at the altar for everyone  
Let us take on the world while we're fed and able  
And bring us back together when the day is done.

***Verse:*** If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed  
Plant a little happiness - let the roots run deep  
If it's love that we give - then it's love that we reap  
If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed (*Refrain*)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The Preparation of the Table*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed by God for ever.**

*Presenting the gifts of Bread and Wine*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

**Therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all creation yesterday, today, and tomorrow,  
we praise you for your goodness and your love.

When we turned away you did not reject us.

You came to meet us in your Son,  
welcomed us as your children  
and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**Christ lived a life of connection with all the earth.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer, on the night before you died you  
came to the table with your friends. Taking bread, you gave thanks,  
broke it and gave it to them saying,

**Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.**

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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;  
do this in remembrance of me.**

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:

**dying, you destroyed our death,  
rising, you restored our life;  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now; may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us, who know our need of grace,  
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven, for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.  
**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in Heaven,**

**hallowed be your Name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as it is 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 for ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Refrain*

Taste and see, taste and see the

good - ness of the Lord. O

taste and see, taste and see the

good - ness of the Lord, of the

Lord.



All who thirst, all who hunger,  
come and be filled with the goodness of God.

### WELCOME TO THE TABLE

*ALL are welcome to receive communion. Please be seated.*

*We receive communion as a community in a half-circle in front of the altar. Once you have received communion you are welcome to return to your pew.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available. We offer both the common cup/ individual glasses (grape juice is available). We ask that you refrain from intinction (dipping your wafer into the common cup). If you would like to receive a blessing instead of communion simply cross your arms in front of you.*

### COMMUNION MUSIC

*Special Music*

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### FINAL BLESSING

God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The blessing of God Almighty, the Holy Trinity, bless you and raise you to new life, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maria will be working remotely from May 21-29 - spending time with urban gardeners at Community Matters (Cincinnati, OH) and Grow Appalachia (Berea, KY). She will be learning from them, inviting them to learn more about us, and is excited to share her findings and stories upon her return!

**Mark your calendar:** Maria Hartz-Clineburg will be Ordained to the Transitional Diaconate this **Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 11 am** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (25 Westminster Rd [East Ave.], Rochester NY 14607). *We are accepting donations for a gift for her. You can go to [stmarksandstjohns.org/give](https://stmarksandstjohns.org/give) ("one time gift"- click on Maria's Ordination Gift) or use an envelope in the back of the church.*

**Pastor Cindy** will be on vacation from **Monday, June 2nd - Saturday, June 14th**. Please contact Deacon Maria for any pastoral emergencies.

Our next **Foodlink Delivery** will be **Tuesday, June 3rd**. Please mark your calendar and sign up online if you're available to help!

We have room for Volunteer Groups on **June 14 & 28** during Community Volunteer Days! If you know someone who would be interested or want to lead a group of colleagues, neighbors, or friends, we'd love to have you!

**Celebration Sunday** - On **Sunday, June 29th**, Pastor Cindy warmly invites everyone in our congregation to participate in a special sharing during coffee hour. Come prepared to share a moment or achievement from your life that fills you with pride and one you would like to celebrate. To help us connect with your story on a deeper level, you can bring an object that represents this experience or aspect of yourself.

We're in need of some folks to help take **Food Shelf shifts** on Wednesdays over the summer. Please head to our website and sign up, or pass the opportunity along to someone you think would be interested!

## June Birthdays

Bruce B. - June 1
Theresa H. - June 13
Mary E. - June 17
Ra'Quel N. - June 20
Dave E.- June 25
Michele H. - June 25

# SMSJ Weekly Calendar

May 26-June 1

Monday, 5/26	
Tuesday, 5/27	5:00-6:00 pm - Gardening @ EDEN Merchants (Deb)
Wednesday, 5/28	9:00-10:00 am - Gardening @ EDEN Church (Mary Ellen) 10:30 am-Noon - Food Shelf
Thursday, 5/29	
Friday, 5/30	
Saturday, 5/31	11 am - Maria's Transitional Diaconate Ordination @ St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Sunday, 6/1	9:30 am - Worship with Eucharist

## Worship Leader Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>First Lesson and Psalm</b>	<b>Second Lesson</b>	<b>Prayers of the People &amp; Greeter</b>
5/25	Terri C.	Heather G.	Bob C.
6/1	Dave E.	Steve F.	Mary E.
6/8	Theresa H.	Tom F.	Mary Ellen F.
6/15	Nancy R.	Bonnie H.	Nancy W.
6/22	Sharon K.	Helena W.	Terri C.
6/29	Joe C.	Deb S.	Michele H.
7/6	Heather G.	Bob C.	Dave E.
7/13	Steve F.	Mary E.	Theresa H.
7/20	Tom F.	Mary Ellen F.	Nancy R.
7/27	Mary Ellen F.	Nancy R.	Bonnie H.

## Worship Leader Schedule

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups
5/25	Michele H.	Sharon K.	Nancy W.
6/8	Nancy R.	Mary Ellen F.	Tom F.
6/15	Theresa H.	Mary E.	Dave E.
6/22	Bob C.	Heather G.	Terri C.
6/29	Deb S.	Joe C.	Michele H.
7/6	Sharon K.	Nancy W.	Nancy R.
7/13	Mary Ellen F.	Tom F.	Theresa H.
7/20	Mary E.	Dave E.	Bob C.
7/27	Tom F.	Theresa H.	Mary E.



# E.D.E.N. Garden COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER DAYS

**2ND & 4TH SATURDAYS  
10 AM-NOON**

Find out what garden we'll be  
working in at  
[stmarksandstjohns.org/volunteer](http://stmarksandstjohns.org/volunteer)





# St. Mark's & St. John's Leadership

## **Rector**

The Rev'd Cindy Rasmussen, Ph.D.  
crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

## **Operations and Missions Director**

Maria Hartz-Clineburg, M.Div.  
mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

## **Deacon**

The Rev'd Patti Blaine, M.A., BCC  
pblaine@stmarksandstjohns.org

## **AV Producer**

Rob Thornton

## **Musicians**

Amelia Yousey

## **Deacon Emeritus**

The Rev'd Mike Finn

## **St. Mark's & St. John's Vestry**

### **Co-Wardens**

Sharon Kowalski ('26)  
Nancy Ramsay ('27)

### **Treasurer**

Michele Holmes

### **Members**

Bob Caruso (Clerk)  
Dave Everson ('28)  
Heather Gilfoy ('27)  
Theresa Harte ('26)  
Michele Holmes ('28)  
Ella Webster ('26)  
Nancy Willer ('27)

### **Diocesan Delegates**

Ella Gruel ('26)  
Bonnie Hallman-Dye ('28)  
Nancy Ramsay ('26)

## **Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative**

Terri Censak