Welcome to St. Mark’s!

Evensong is one of the oldest and most uniquely “Anglican” services in our tradition, dating back to 1549 and the first Book of Common Prayer compiled by Thomas Cranmer. To create Evensong, Cranmer drew from sources as ancient as the sixth century Rule of St. Benedict, which had governed life in monasteries throughout England and Europe for nearly a thousand years, and from even older psalms, songs, and prayers from both Testaments of the Bible itself. Evensong’s richly woven tapestry of sacred Scripture, religious wisdom, and spiritual insight, together with its morning-time twin, Matins, have formed the foundation of Anglican prayer and spirituality for nearly five hundred years. When set to music, these prayers are invested with an extra element of beauty that heightens all our senses and lifts us all the more readily into the presence of God: where we meet the One who died for us and rose again, and who holds the whole world — and our own souls — in his loving embrace.

The readings for Evensong (as for Matins) are on a daily, two-year cycle designed so that most of the Bible can be read in church on a regular basis. One of the things this means is that the readings can be more obscure than the ones we normally hear at the Eucharist on Sunday mornings. Just remember that with any kind of prayer, and especially with Evensong, we are always stepping into a stream that is already flowing. If you hear something jarring or confusing, let it be an invitation to pick up the Bible yourself, to discuss it with a friend, or to offer the matter to God in prayer, so that you, too, might be part of the current. Our tradition is full of dissonances and harmonies that do not find their final resolution until the culmination of all things, when love unseats death as the arbiter of history and meaning, and every tear is wiped from every eye. In the meantime there are always more questions to be asked, more forgiveness to offer and receive, and further depths to be plumbed in God and in one another, as by prayer we join the Holy Spirit’s work of stitching more tightly together the fabric of the world.

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Invitatory and Psalter

O Lord, open Thou our lips.
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son;
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord’s name be praised.

Psalm 8, 84

1 O Lord our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world *
   thou that has set thy glory above the heavens!
2 Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies *
   that thou mightest still the enemy, and the avenger.
3 For I will consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers *
   the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.
4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him *
   and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
5 Thou madest him lower than the angels *
   to crown him with glory and worship.
6 Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands *
   and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet;
7 All sheep and oxen *
   yea, and the beasts of the field;
8 The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea *
   and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.
O Lord our Governor * 
how excellent is thy Name in all the world!
1 O how amiable are thy dwellings * 
thou Lord of hosts!
2 My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord * 
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
3 Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young * 
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house * 
they will be alway praising thee.
5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee * 
in whose heart are thy ways.
6 Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well * 
and the pools are filled with water.
7 They will go from strength to strength * 
and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.
8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer * 
hearken, O God of Jacob.
9 Behold, O God our defender * 
and look upon the face of thine Anointed.
10 For one day in thy courts * 
is better than a thousand.
11 I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God * 
than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
12 For the Lord God is a light and defence * 
the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from them that 
live a godly life.
13 O Lord God of hosts * 
blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: And to the Holy Ghost; 
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

First Lesson  Job 38:1,18-41
1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:
18 Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? 
Declare, if you know all this.
19 “Where is the way to the dwelling of light, 
and where is the place of darkness,
20 that you may take it to its territory 
and that you may discern the paths to its home?
21 Surely you know, for you were born then, 
and the number of your days is great!
22 “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, 
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,
23 which I have reserved for the time of trouble, 
for the day of battle and war?
24 What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, 
or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?
25 “Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain, 
and a way for the thunderbolt,
26 to bring rain on a land where no one lives, 
on the desert, which is empty of human life,
27 to satisfy the waste and desolate land, 
and to make the ground put forth grass?
28 “Has the rain a father, 
or who has begotten the drops of dew?
29 From whose womb did the ice come forth, 
and who has given birth to the hoar frost of heaven?
The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion?

Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children?

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you?

Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’?

Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind?

Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together?

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert?

Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: And to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

- Luke 1:46-55

Second Lesson Matthew: 5:21-26

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. 24 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. 25 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Nunc dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation, which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
in as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

- Luke 2:29-32
The Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church;
The communion of Saints, The Forgiveness of sins,
The Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers
Officiant: The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Officiant: Let us pray.
Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.
Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.
Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant: O Lord, save the State.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant: O Lord, save thy people,
And bless thine inheritance.
Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Officiant: O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day
O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Second Collect
O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsel, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Third Collect
Lighten out darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.
Reading
Love (III)  
George Herbert - 1593-1633

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lacked anything.

"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here":  
Love said, "You shall be he."  
"I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
I cannot look on thee."  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
"Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord; but I have marred them; let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve."  
"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"  
"My dear, then I will serve."  
"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."  
So I did sit and eat.

Intercessions

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all evermore. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

4:00 p.m. Organ Recital: The recitalists who were scheduled to play in September and October have needed to cancel due to COVID. The rest of the organists scheduled to perform on the series have been able to recommit to playing on the series live via Facebook from St. Mark’s, via livestream from another church/organ, or by sending a video recording that will be posted to our Facebook page.

Instead of a recital this Sunday, the 35th season of the Organ Recital Series will “kick off” with an interactive zoom conversation and “Org-an Crawl” at the Flentrop with Fr. Blake and George. This time will provide opportunities to learn more about the instrument, the history of the organ, how it works, and plans for celebrating its 50th birthday in 2022!

Join Zoom Meeting: (it is a different link than the Evensong)
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89734779858?pwd=YmY3Z1RuQXVSeFVKWmV0cWZoakJDdz09
Meeting ID: 897 3477 9858
Passcode: 708830
One tap mobile: +14086380968

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Contributions are welcome to help support the series at one of the following levels of support: $1-74 Supporter / $75-124 Friend / $125-249 Sponsor / $250-499 Patron / $500 - $999 Sustainer / $1000+ Benefactor. Please make your check payable to St. Mark’s Choir Association, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Donations may also be received on-line at [https://stmarksberkeley.org/music/friends-of-music/](https://stmarksberkeley.org/music/friends-of-music/). Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you for your continued support.

**Looking Ahead:**

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