

Second Sunday Evensong
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14th, 2021; 3:00 p.m. – via Zoom



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.

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.

Psalms 19, 46

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.
- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."
- 12 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

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 - Jeremiah 14:1-9, 17-22

The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought:

Judah mourns

and her gates languish;
they lie in gloom on the ground,
and the cry of Jerusalem goes up.
Her nobles send their servants for water;
they come to the cisterns,
they find no water,
they return with their vessels empty.
They are ashamed and dismayed
and cover their heads,
because the ground is cracked.

Because there has been no rain on the land
the farmers are dismayed;
they cover their heads.

Even the doe in the field forsakes her newborn fawn
because there is no grass.

The wild asses stand on the bare heights,
they pant for air like jackals;

their eyes fail
because there is no herbage.

Although our iniquities testify against us,
act, O Lord, for your name's sake;

our apostasies indeed are many,
and we have sinned against you.

O hope of Israel,

its savior in time of trouble,
why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler turning aside for the night?

Why should you be like someone confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?

Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
do not forsake us!

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 - Mark 8:11-21

The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation." And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side. Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out—beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod." They said to one another, "It is because we have no bread." And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" They said to him, "Twelve." "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" And they said to him, "Seven." Then he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

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;
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 on 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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. 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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, 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 our 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

God's Grandeur

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
 It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
 It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
 Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
 Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
 And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
 And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
 Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
 There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
 And though the last lights off the black West went
 Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
 Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
 World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Intercessions

The Grace

*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. -2 Cor 13:14*

You are cordially invited to attend the Second Sunday Evensong/Organ Recital Series sponsored by St. Mark's, Berkeley, TODAY, March 14th. Evensong will be offered at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom, followed by an organ recital offered by Jerome Lenk at 4:00 p.m. via Livestream. The Zoom reception will follow the organ recital, approximately at 4:45 p.m.

To attend the Organ Recital, visit:

Watch via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksberkeley/> OR visit our <https://stmarksberkeley.org/livestreamedservices/> in real time or save it.

To attend the Reception, visit:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83866799503?pwd=S1F6N1RpZUZ1U01ZNHlwWDRJSjg1UT09>
 Meeting ID: 838 6679 9503, Passcode: 775012, One tap mobile +16699006833

Staff

<i>Rector</i>	The Rev'd Blake Sawicky – priest@stmarksberkeley.org
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