

Second Sunday Evensong
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9th, 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.

Psalm 34

- 1 I will always give thanks unto the Lord *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord *
the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.
- 3 O praise the Lord with me *
and let us magnify his Name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me *
yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.
- 5 They had an eye unto him, and were lightened *
and their faces were not ashamed.
- 6 Lo, the poor crieth, and the Lord heareth him *
yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear him *
and delivereth them.
- 8 O taste, and see, how gracious the Lord is *
blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
- 9 O fear the Lord, ye that are his saints *
for they that fear him lack nothing.

- 10 The lions do lack, and suffer hunger *
but they who seek the Lord shall want no manner of thing that is good.
- 11 Come, ye children, and hearken unto me *
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 What man is he that lusteth to live *
and would fain see good days?
- 13 Keep thy tongue from evil *
and thy lips, that they speak no guile.
- 14 Eschew evil, and do good *
seek peace, and ensue it.
- 15 The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous *
and his ears are open unto their prayers.
- 16 The countenance of the Lord is against them that do evil *
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth them *
and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart *
and will save such as be of an humble spirit.
- 19 Great are the troubles of the righteous *
but the Lord delivereth him out of all.
- 20 He keepeth all his bones *
so that not one of them is broken.
- 21 But misfortune shall slay the ungodly *
and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
- 22 The Lord delivereth the souls of his servants *
and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.

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 – Sirach 43:1-12, 27-32

The pride of the heavenly heights is the clear firmament,
the appearance of heaven in a spectacle of glory.
The sun, when it appears, making proclamation as it goes forth,
is a marvelous instrument, the work of the Most High.
At noon it parches the land;
and who can withstand its burning heat?
A man tending a furnace works in burning heat,
but the sun burns the mountains three times as much;
it breathes out fiery vapors,
and with bright beams it blinds the eyes.
Great is the Lord who made it;
and at his command it hastens on its course.

He made the moon also, to serve in its season
to mark the times and to be an everlasting sign.
From the moon comes the sign for feast days,
a light that wanes when it has reached the full.
The month is named for the moon,
increasing marvelously in its phases,
an instrument of the hosts on high
shining forth in the firmament of heaven.

The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven,
a gleaming array in the heights of the Lord.
At the command of the Holy One they stand as ordered,
they never relax in their watches.
Look upon the rainbow, and praise him who made it,
exceedingly beautiful in its brightness.
It encircles the heaven with its glorious arc;
the hands of the Most High have stretched it out.

Though we speak much we cannot reach the end,
and the sum of our words is: "He is the all."
Where shall we find strength to praise him?
For he is greater than all his works.
Terrible is the Lord and very great,
and marvelous is his power.
When you praise the Lord, exalt him as much as you can;
for he will surpass even that.
When you exalt him, put forth all your strength,
and do not grow weary, for you cannot praise him enough.
Who has seen him and can describe him?
Or who can extol him as he is?
Many things greater than these lie hidden,
for we have seen but few of his works.

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 13:24-34a

Another parable he put before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the householder came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then has it weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No; lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Another parable he put before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

All this Jesus said to the crowds in parables.

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

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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.*

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price, the one field that had
the treasure in it. I realize now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying

on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

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, May 9th. Evensong will be offered at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom, followed by an organ recital offered by Joy-Leilani Garbutt at 4:00 p.m. via Livestream. The Zoom "meet & greet" will follow the organ recital, approximately at 5:00 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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