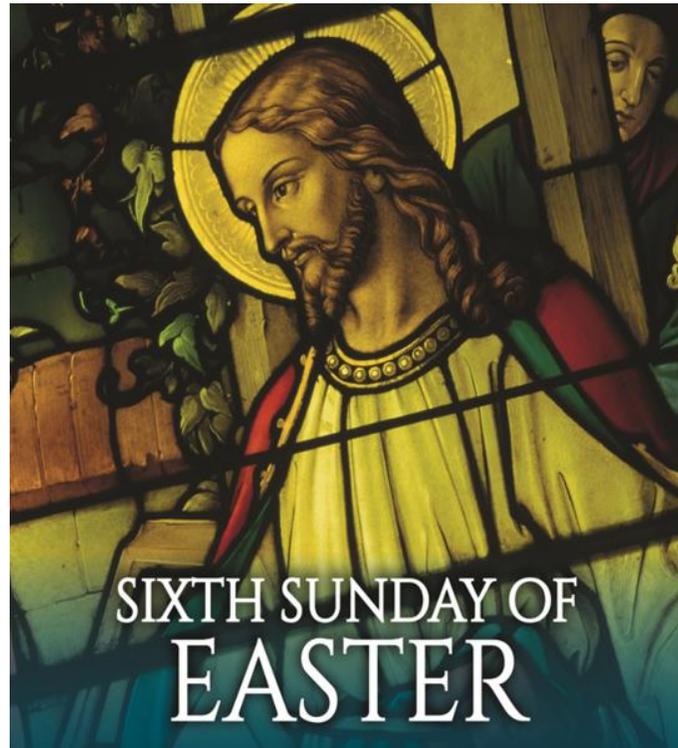


A SERVICE OF MORNING DEVOTION  
ON  
*SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER*



17 May 2020

10.30am

*Saint Mark's Episcopal Church  
Dalton, Georgia  
in  
The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta*

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**Organ Prelude** Prelude in F major ("Little")

J.S. Bach

**Opening Hymn 398** I sing the almighty power of God

*Forest Green*

**Easter Greeting**

*The Officiant proclaims*

†Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People*

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Officiant*

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;

*People*

**no one comes to the Father, but by me.**

*The Officiant welcomes the community and introduces the service.*

**Welcome**



- 7 Bless our God, you/peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be/heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in/life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to/slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have/proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is/tried.
- 10 You brought us into the/ snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our/back.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and/ water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of re/freshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my/vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in/trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of/rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and/ goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear/God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for/me.
- 15 I called out to him with my/ mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my/tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my/ heart, \*  
the Lord would not have/ heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has/heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my/prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my/prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from/me.

### THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

#### First Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

*The Lector first says*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*After the Lesson, the Lector says*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*   **Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Organ Meditation** If ye love me, keep my commandments

Thomas Tallis

**Second Lesson**

1 Peter 3:13-22

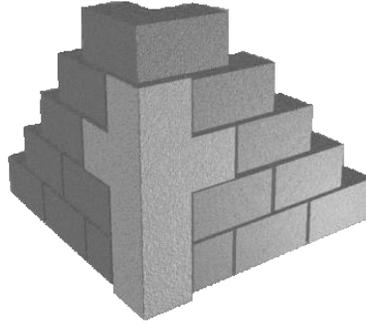
*The Lector first says*

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him

*After the Lesson, the Lector says*  
The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silence is kept.*



**Hymn 455** O Love of God, how strong and true

(Hymnal 1982) *Dunedin*

### **Gospel Reading**

John 14:15-21

*The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*  
A Reading from the Gospel of John.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

*After the Gospel, the Priest says*  
The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

### **Homily**

Rev. Susan J. Butler

### **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing,*

**I** believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
**I** believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
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.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Officiant* Let us pray.

### Lesser Litany

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*People* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
*Officiant* Lord, have mercy upon us.

### The Lord's Prayer

*Officiant and People*

**O**UR 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.

### Intercessions

*The Officiant bids the Intercessions with these words*

**A**S LIVING STONES, let us pray for the building up of God's Church, and for the world God loves.

*Silence*

Living God, our life is in your hands,  
and we offer you all that we are,  
all that our past has made us, and all that we may become.  
Build us up by the power of your Spirit into a spiritual temple

where you are glorified day after day,  
in all our praise and worship,  
and in our love for one another.

*Silence*

You are my strong rock:  
**my strong rock and my shelter.**

Living God, you have called us to walk in your way,  
we pray for the Church;  
for all congregations, for pastors  
and all who minister in word and sacrament;  
we pray particularly for bishops,  
Robert our Diocesan, Don and Paul our Assisting,  
Michael our Presiding Bishop and Primate,  
Victor in our companion and partner Diocese of Cape Coast,  
and Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We pray for clear guidance and direction  
in those issues which disturb us,  
asking not that you lead us the easy way  
but the way that is right and good.

*Silence*

You are my strong rock:  
**my strong rock and my shelter.**

Living God, our planet,  
with its frenzied life on its fragile skin,  
is unnervingly small and vulnerable.  
Sharpen our consciences to sense your direction  
and protect us from all that draws us away from you.  
Guide our leaders in the way of truth  
and realign us all to the values which are built on you.

*Silence*

You are my strong rock:  
**my strong rock and my shelter.**

Living God, may the Way which Jesus shows us  
be the Way we live out our daily lives  
around the table, in the daylight and the dark,  
in the misunderstandings, the tensions and the rush,  
in the eye contact, the conversations, the socializing at a distance from one another,  
and the growing.

*Silence*

You are my strong rock:  
**my strong rock and my shelter.**

Living God, you can use  
and transform all our experiences.  
We lay before you now

those who are traveling through a time  
of pain or anguish, tragedy or conflict  
which is hard to bear, especially those struggling with the pandemic that is covid-19,  
bringing fear, loneliness, anxiety, depression;  
yet manifesting acts of love, kindness, generosity, compassionate tenderness.  
We pray for health and healing for those known to our community who suffer:

Geneva, Joan, Walter, Max, Cathie, Jeri, Jane, Amanda, Carolyn, Brenda,  
Brooks Jr. & Sr., Sandy, Tommy, Ethel, Doris, Carol, Celia, Walt,  
Marcus & Rebecca, Linda, Janelle, Beverly, Colleen, Beverly, and Nikki.

We stand alongside them in their suffering,  
and offer it to your transforming, healing love.

*Silence*

You are my strong rock:  
**my strong rock and my shelter.**

Living God, we pray for all those who find themselves on the frontlines of this coronavirus pandemic:  
research scientists, physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, paramedics, firefighters,  
police officers, chaplains, the cleaning staff;  
we offer thanks for those essential workers who continue to provide for our essential needs:  
agricultural and other food workers, retail workers, transportation workers,  
and those who off load supplies and stock the shelves.

*Silence*

You are my strong rock:  
**my strong rock and my shelter.**

Living God, we pray for those who are supporting our country through military service:  
Blane, Aaron, Ashlyn, Allison, Kevin, Ben, Mark D., Jordan, Jonathan, Matthew H.,  
Matthew K., Michael, Rebekah, Todd, Chris, Lindsay, and Mark W.  
defend them day by day with your heavenly grace,  
strengthen them in their trials and temptations,  
give them courage to face the perils which beset them,  
grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be.

*Silence*

You are my strong rock:  
**my strong rock and my shelter.**

Living God, we remember those who have died  
and pray for them now.  
Lead them out of their pain  
into the light of eternity,  
and keep us all in the Way that leads us  
to share that everlasting life with you.

*Silence*

You are my strong rock:  
**my strong rock and my shelter.**

Living God, we thank you  
for showing us the Way,

in human terms that we find easier to understand.

*Silence*

You are my strong rock:  
**my strong rock and my shelter.**

*Silence*

*At the end of the Intercessions, the Officiant adds the following concluding Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the Way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The Officiant bids the Prayer for the Search for a Rector:*

We pray for the Nominating Committee in their faithful work:

**G**OD OF ALL OUR DAYS AND WAYS, grant us wisdom as we work to discern and seek a good shepherd for your people of St. Mark's. May we humbly and diligently complete each task set before us, turning to you in prayer and accepting guidance from the spirit, when the way forward is unclear. Trusting always in your grace and love, lead us on this journey. **Amen.**

## **The General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

*The Officiant says the following prayer:*

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

## **Benedicamus**

*Officiant*            Let us bless the Lord.  
*People*                **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Grace**

*The Officiant concludes with the following*

**T**HE GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn 344** Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

(Hymnal 1982) *Sicilian Mariners*

**Organ Postlude** Fugue in F major (“Little”)

J.S. Bach

## Assisting in Service Today

Rev. Susan J. Butler, Guest Clergy & Officiant  
Beth Nichols, Music Director  
John Schwenn, Reader  
Camilla Springfield & John Kenemer, Choir Members



*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*