

*A Service of Morning Devotion*  
*on*  
*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



**August 30, 2020**

**11.15am**

***Saint Mark's Episcopal Church***  
***Dalton, Georgia***  
***in***  
***The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta***  
**THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Greeting

*The Officiant proclaims*

† Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Officiant*

The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord;

*People*

**and you also are witnesses.**

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

**Welcome**

**Confession of Sin**

*The Officiant says these words*

**D**EARLY BELOVED, we have gathered together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth God's praise, to hear God's holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship God, let us pause in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence*

*Officiant and People*

**M**OST MERCIFUL GOD,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

**Absolution**

*The Officiant says*

**A**Lmighty God have † mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER**

**Preces**

*Officiant*

Lord, † open our lips.

*People*

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; \*  
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*  
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; \*  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; \*  
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*  
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 23 Israel came into Egypt, \*  
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
- 24 The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; \*  
he made them stronger than their enemies;
- 25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, \*  
and dealt unjustly with his servants.
- 26 He sent Moses his servant, \*  
and Aaron whom he had chosen.
- 45 Hallelujah!

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**First Lesson**

Exodus 3:1-15

*The Lector first says*

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

*After the Lesson, the Lector says*

The Word of the Lord.

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

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Meditation** Offrande

Flor Peeters

**Second Lesson**

Romans 12:9-21

*The Lector first says*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*After the Lesson, the Lector says*

The Word of the Lord.

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

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Meditation** They'll know we are Christians by our love

Peter Scholtes

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 16:21-28

*The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

*After the Gospel, the Priest says*

The Word of the Lord.

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

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **Homily**

The Rev. Perry Scruggs

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **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 Reader bids the Intercessions with these words*

God is the great "I AM" in whose Name we pray, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

We pray for church leaders; Robert our Bishop, Don and Paul our Assisting Bishops, Michael our Presiding Bishop, for all priests and deacons, and for the people of our companion and partner Diocese of Cape Coast; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

That we may be a people of gratitude, giving thanks to God with our whole heart, and soul, and mind; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

That we may open our ears to the cries of those who suffer, freeing them from enslavement to poverty, abuse, and lack of opportunity, taking our share in the saving acts of God; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Remembering Donald our President, Brian our Governor, David our Mayor, and Lyn our Chairperson we pray that the leaders of the nations may lead their people with integrity, honoring all that is past and moving into the challenges that define a new life; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the courage to lift up our crosses to the light of day, carrying them on our journey of faith, uniting ourselves with the Christ of the passion, so as to share in the glory of his resurrection; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

That we be given the strength to leave behind the fruits of temptation, turning our gaze upon that which is nourishing and sound, living a life of love, honor, and respect for others, full of rejoicing and thanksgiving; let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for the health and healing of: Geneva, Meredith, Joan, Max, Cathie, Jeri, Jane, Amanda, Carolyn, Brenda, Brooks Sr., Julia, Sandy, Tommy, Ethel, Doris, Carol, Celia, Susan, Chris, Walt, Marcus & Rebecca, Charles & Peggy, Linda, Janelle, Amber & Leroy, Beverly, Colleen, Candy, Michelle, Beverly P., Regina, Nikki, Bill, and Cannon John, let us pray.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all laborers, that they may receive a fair wage, a safe working environment, the companionship of fellow workers, and the respect of those who exercise authority over them; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who have died surrounded by family and friends, and for those who were unloved and unmourned, that all may have a place in God's kingdom; let us pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

May the Name of God be grafted on our hearts as we continue our prayers.

We give thanks for carers, for home helpers and social workers, and for all of those who find themselves on the frontlines of this coronavirus pandemic: Research scientists, physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, paramedics, firefighters, police officers, chaplains, and 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.

We pray for those who serve to protect the freedoms we enjoy: Blane, Aaron, Ashlyn, Allison, Kevin, Ben, Mark D., Jordan, Jonathan, Matthew H., Matthew K., Michael, Rebekah, Todd, Chris, Lindsay, and Mark W.

Lord, we pray for the Nominating Committee:

GOD 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.

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

O LORD, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Silence*

## **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.**

## Benediction

*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.**

**Organ Postlude** Jig fugue

Dietrich Buxtehude

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### Assisting in Service Today

The Rev. Perry Scruggs, *Guest Clergy & Officiant*  
Beth Nichols, *Music Director*  
Sarah & Tom Morris, *Readers*  
Blake Bennett or Alex Brown, *Videographer(s)*



*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*