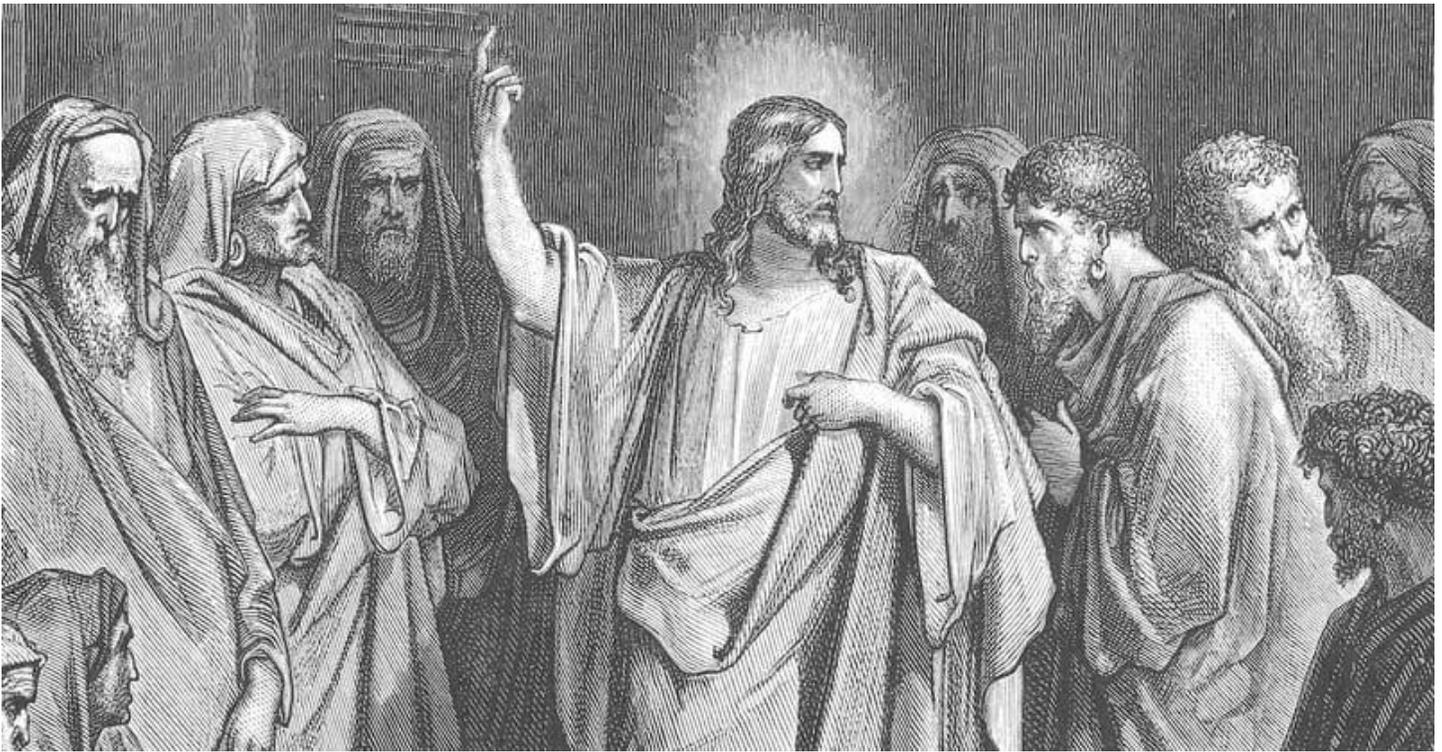


A Service of Morning Devotion
on
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



October 11, 2020

10:30am

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

DEARLY 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

MOST 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

ALmighty 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 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;

20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,

22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Exodus 32:1-14

The Lector first says

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel,

who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

After the Lesson, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Meditation Guide my feet, Lord (while I run this race)

African-American spiritual

Second Lesson

Philippians 4:1-9

The Lector first says

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Gospel

After the Lesson, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Meditation I come with joy to meet my Lord

David Paxton

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:1-14

The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

After the Gospel, the Priest says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Homily

Rev. Denise Ronn

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

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 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

In turning to the ways of God our lives are saved from the grip of the Evil One, and the humility of love lightens our path. We offer our prayers, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

For the grace to move from grumbling to shared responsibility, from accusation to a search for truth, from humiliation and shame to God's compassion and mercy; let us pray.

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 bear witness to the wonderful works of God, so that our children and the generations to come may walk in the path of faith and announce the mystery of faith through their lives; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may bend the knee of our hearts to those who live in despair and great need, knowing that they are Christ to us, a gift of the Holy Spirit who fills us with compassion, and transforms the way we live;

We pray for the health and healing of:

Geneva, Joan, Max, Cathie, Jeri, Jane, Amanda, Carolyn, Brenda, Julia, Sandy & Rick, Tommy & Bee, Ann, Ethel, Doris, Carol, Celia, Susan, Chris, Norma, Walt, Marcus & Rebecca, Charles & Peggy, Linda, Janelle, Amber & Leroy, Beverly, Colleen, Shana, Michelle, Beverly P., Regina, Nikki, Bill, and Canon John, let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who work at night, staying awake while others sleep, guarding our streets, and healing the sick, that they may labor in safety and receive the rest that prepares them for another round; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Donald our President and his advisors, the members of Congress and the Supreme Court, Brian our Governor, David our Mayor, and Lyn our Chairperson that they may be honest and vigilant in their duties, knowing that their decisions affect the peoples of our land, and of the nations of the world; 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.

Remembering especially Brooks Lansing, Sr., we pray for those who have died and now reside on another shore and in a greater light, that their faith may inspire our own, and their generosity encourage the way in which we use our gifts; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us continue our prayers for all who live in the shadows of life;

We give thanks for caregivers, 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, let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

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; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For teachers preparing for the school year that is ahead, that they may be inspired to patiently nurture the minds of those in their charge and we pray earnestly for the health and safety of all students and teachers; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

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. let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for our current Vestry:

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

ALmighty 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:

ALmighty 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

THE 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 Short fugue in g major

Dietrich Buxtehude

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Assisting in Service Today

Rev. Denise Ronn, *Guest Clergy & Officiant*

Beth Nichols, *Music Director*

Matt Hamilton, *Reader*

Blake Bennett or Alex Brown, *Videographer(s)*



Thank you for worshiping with us today.