

A Service of Morning Devotion
on
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



5 July 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

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.**

Psalm 45: 11-18 (*spoken aloud in unison*)

Eructavit cor meum

- 11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.
- 17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The Lector first says

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

After the Lesson, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Meditation O Jesus I have promised

Nyland/David Evans

Second Lesson

Romans 7:15-25a

The Lector first says

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

After the Lesson, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Meditation Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Karen Lafferty

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

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 Officiant bids the Intercessions with these words

LET US PRAY to our heavenly Father, who created our world and understands our humanity.

Silence

Let us come before God in a posture of openness, expecting the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and to lead us into the offering of our prayers, as we respond, "**Hear us, good Lord.**"

Free us from the bondage of our sinful ways, our blindness to truth, our stubbornness and lack of discipline, that we may yearn after the fruits of the divine Word and follow its wisdom;

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Strengthen the love and devotion amongst family members, that forgiveness may heal old wounds, and mutual affection pave the way to wholeness;

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Guide the leaders of our Church, that there may be mutual respect, and a renewed sense of partnership in bringing God's kingdom into the most troubled corners of our neighborhoods and nations;

We pray particularly for Robert our Bishop, Don and Paul our Assisting Bishops, Michael our Presiding Bishop, and the people of our companion and partner Diocese of Cape Coast.

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Encourage our civic leaders to modify their convictions with compromise, that there may be a renewal of hope for those who live in poverty, unemployment, and lack of educational opportunities;
We pray for Donald our President, Brian our Governor, and David our Mayor and that they may be given the wisdom to make the best decisions for the welfare of all people.

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

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, 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.

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for health and healing for those known to our community who suffer:

Geneva, Joan, Chris, Max, Cathie, Jeri, Jane, Amanda, Carolyn, Brenda,
Brooks Jr. & Sr., Sandy, Tommy, Michelle, Ethel, Carol, Celia, David, Jon, Charlie, Walt, Sammie, Marcus & Rebecca,
David, Naomi, Doug, Janet, Linda, Janelle, Beverly, Colleen, Doris, Beth, Beverly, Nikki, Nancy, Rosalee, and Jean;

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Reveal the unfolding beauty of creation, the uniqueness of seasons, and the joy and wonder of your handicraft, that we may delight in guarding these gifts;

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Receive those who have died into your arms of mercy, remembering especially Walter Arms, that they may sleep in everlasting peace;

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Faithfully seeking the path to new life, let us continue our prayers;

Lord, 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.

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.

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Silence

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.**

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 O God, our help in ages past

Gordon Young

Assisting in Service Today

Rev Perry Scruggs, *Guest Clergy & Officiant*

Beth Nichols, *Music Director*

Alan Nichols, *Piano*

Beth & Julia Nichols, *Readers*

Blake Bennett, *Videographer*



Thank you for worshiping with us today.