

A Service of Morning Devotion

on

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



12 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.**

- 105 Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.
- 106 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.
- 107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.
- 108 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.
- 109 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.
- 111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Genesis 25:19-34

The Lector first says

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

After the Lesson, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Meditation Liebster Jesu (Blessed Jesus, at thy word)

J.S. Bach

Second Lesson

Romans 8:1-11

The Lector first says

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

After the Lesson, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Meditation Taste and see (the goodness of the Lord)

James E. Moore, Jr.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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 Reader bids the Intercessions with these words

Mercifully receive our prayers, O God, that we may know your ways and follow where you lead, responding, “**Hear us, good Lord.**”

For those who are seeking a spiritual home, that they may be inspired to join us in worship and to receive a deep sense of God’s presence;

We pray for church leaders; 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.

That we may be set free from the need to claim our worthiness through possessions and position, so that we may discover our true identity in the life and hope of the Holy Spirit;

let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

That the light of Christ will reveal the path to those for whom the shadows are long, the poor and desperate, the lonely and unemployed, the hungry and fearful, the refugee and homeless, the prisoner and those who live as if in prison, that we may not forget them;

We pray for the health and healing for:

Geneva, Meredith, Joan, Max, Jeanne, 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.

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 that they may be given the wisdom to make the best decisions for the welfare of all people and all who serve in the armed forces; especially: Blane, Aaron, Ashlyn, Allison, Kevin, Ben, Mark D., Jordan, Jonathan, Matthew H., Matthew K., Michael, Rebekah, Todd, Chris, Lindsay, and Mark W. that we may be thankful for their many sacrifices, and honor the service they render to our country and to the security of the world;

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.

For safety for children who are on vacation, that they may have the chance to learn new skills, build healthy bodies, and develop new and lasting friendships;
let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

With heart and mind turned toward God, 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, 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.

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 Laudation

Gilbert M. Martin

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Assisting in Service Today

Rev Perry Scruggs, *Guest Clergy & Officiant*
Beth Nichols, *Music Director*
Marilyn Lance, *Reader*
Blake Bennett, *Videographer*



Thank you for worshipping with us today.