

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Evening Prayer: Rite Two  
Wednesday, December 1, 2021

*Opening Sentences*

**Confession of Sin**

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*[Officiant leads and people join in]*

**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.**

*Officiant:* 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.

*[A deacon or lay person using the preceding form remains kneeling, and substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."]*

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant:* O God, make speed to save us.

**People:** O Lord, make haste to help us.

[OFFICIANT AND PEOPLE TOGETHER]

**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. Alleluia.**

## **O Gracious Light (unison)**

**O gracious Light,**

**pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven,**

**O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,**

**and our eyes behold the vesper light,**

**we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy  
Spirit.**

**You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy  
voices,**

**O Son of God, O Giver of life,**

**and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

**Psalms 12, 13, 14 . . . . .BCP 597**

*Psalm 12*

- 1 Help me, Lord, for there is no godly one left; \*  
the faithful have vanished from among us.
- 2 **Everyone speaks falsely with his neighbor; \***  
**with a smooth tongue they speak from a double heart.**
- 3 Oh, that the Lord would cut off all smooth tongues, \*  
and close the lips that utter proud boasts!
- 4 **Those who say, “With our tongue will we prevail; \***  
**our lips are our own; who is lord over us?”**
- 5 “Because the needy are oppressed,  
and the poor cry out in misery, \*  
I will rise up,” says the Lord,  
“and give them the help they long for.”
- 6 **The words of the Lord are pure words, \***  
**like silver refined from ore**  
**and purified seven times in the fire.**
- 7 O Lord, watch over us \*  
and save us from this generation for ever.
- 8 **The wicked prowl on every side, \***  
**and that which is worthless is highly prized by everyone.**

*Psalm 13*

- 1 How long, O Lord?  
will you forget me for ever? \*  
how long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 **How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,**

**and grief in my heart, day after day? \***

**how long shall my enemy triumph over me?**

3 Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God; \*  
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 **Lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,” \*  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.**

5 But I put my trust in your mercy; \*  
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

6 **I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me richly; \*  
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.**

*Psalm 14*

1 The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” \*  
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.

2 **The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all, \*  
to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.**

3 Every one has proved faithless;  
all alike have turned bad; \*  
there is none who does good; no, not one.

4 **Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers \*  
who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon the Lord?**

5 See how they tremble with fear, \*  
because God is in the company of the righteous.

6 **Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, \***

**but the Lord is their refuge.**

7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*  
when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

[OFFICIANT AND PEOPLE TOGETHER]

**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.**

**The First Lesson. . . . . Mathew 21:23-32**

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to

them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

The Song of Mary

*Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

Meditation . . . . . Willis Logan

*The Apostles' Creed*

**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.

### *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.**

## **Suffrages A**

Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**And grant us your salvation.**

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**Let your people sing with joy.**

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**For only in you can we live in safety.**

Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
Let your way be known upon earth;  
**Your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

*A Collect for the Presence of Christ*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

*A Collect for Protection*

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless

the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

*[authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow]*

### *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 (Officiant only)***

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.*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*Romans 15:13*

**SERVING US TODAY:**

Officiant: Walter Michael

Meditation: Willis Logan

Reader/Voice of the People: Emily Talbot-Guillote