

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHAPEL



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 14, 2021



MORNING PRAYER RITE II

Prelude *Help, God, The Formar Of All Things.* BWV 624

Help, God, the formar of all thing.

That to Thy gloir may be my dyte;

Be baith at end and beginning,

That I may mak ane sang perfyte

Of Jesus Christis Passioun,

Sinnaris onlie Saluatioun,

As witnes is Thy word in write.

Our understanding of Bach's greatness leads us to forget the humble offering of his genius to the glory of God without exception throughout his life. In this most captivating of chorale preludes, Bach purposefully presents the chorale tune in canon, riddled with errors, accompanied by an ungainly bass. The alto's virtuosic perpetual motion clashes with the canon, creating a prideful display of chaos and futility. Without God's help our song will never achieve perfection.

Greetings and Announcements

Hymn 686(1982) *Come, thou fount of every blessing*

1. Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of

loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! O fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.

2. Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee; prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Officiant If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:8,9

Confession

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

*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

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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

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.

The Morning Psalm Deus, Deus meus

Psalm 63:1-8

*O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.*

*Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, * that I might
behold your power and your glory.*

*For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; * my lips shall
give you praise.*

*So will I bless you as long as I live * and lift up my hands in your
Name.*

*My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.*

*For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.*

The Psalm Appointed 107:1-3, 17-22 *Confitemini Domino*

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

*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 Lessons

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?"

For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

10 The Second Song of Isaiah Quærite Dominum Isaiah 55:6-11

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

*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*

John 3:14-21

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Optional parts of the readings are set off in square brackets.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Homily

Hymn

Song of the wanderer

Forrest

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together,

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

The Lord's Prayer

Suffrages A

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
- R. And grant us your salvation.
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
- R. Let your people sing with joy.
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
- R. For only in you can we live in safety.
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
- R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;
- R. Your saving health among all nations.
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
- R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

This day we remember those who are ill or suffering especially Maria, Zoma, Marilyn, Peter, Kerri, Rich, Janet, Frank, Caroline, Mary, Gloria, Jack, John, Eddie, and those we mention now either silently or aloud.

We remember those who have died, especially those we mention now either silently or aloud.

The Officiant then says the following Collects

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn 439(1982) *What wondrous love is this*

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul!
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing. To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing!
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on!

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.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 657(1982) Love divine, all loves excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.
2. Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
3. Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen. *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Postlude *We Thank Thee, Jesus Christ Our Lord.* BWV 623

We thank Thee, Jesus Christ our Lord;
For ever be Thy name adored:
For Thou, the sinless One, hast died
That sinners might be justified.

O very Man, and very God,
Redeem us with Thy precious blood;
From death eternal set us free,
And make us one with God in Thee.

From sin and shame defend us still.
And work in us Thy steadfast will,
The Cross with patience to sustain,
And bravely bear its utmost pain.

In Thee we trust, in Thee alone;
For Thou forsakest not Thine own:
To all the meek Thy strength is given,
Who by Thy Cross ascend to heaven.

Bach's repetition of a leaping motive in the pedal is energetic and joyous. Attaching meaning to a musical motive such as this adds an element of subjective interpretation to Bach's work on which we might disagree. Nonetheless, we are grateful that Bach is giving us a moment during Lent to reflect on the gratitude expressed in the chorale.

Announcements:

The vestry has deliberated and voted to keep the church building closed for the time being. Services will continue to be streamed via Facebook Live on Wednesday at 12PM and Sunday at 9AM.

Upcoming Lenten Organ Meditations: 4 PM on Facebook Live

March 14th

March 28th

Lutheran Sunday is March 21st. We hope all will participate as we continue to pray via Facebook Live.

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHAPEL
HOLY WEEK

MARCH 28TH
PALM SUNDAY
9 AM Facebook Live

MARCH 29TH, 30TH, & 31ST
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
7 PM via ZOOM

APRIL 1ST
MAUNDY THURSDAY
w/ Saint Paul's

APRIL 2ND
GOOD FRIDAY
12 PM & 7 PM Facebook Live

APRIL 3RD
HOLY SATURDAY
10 AM Prayer & 7:30 PM Great Vigil of Easter
Facebook Live

APRIL 4TH
EASTER SUNDAY
9 AM Facebook Live

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