



Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 14th, 2021

9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship

GATHERING

Preparing for Virtual Worship

Set up a space in your home for worship and prayer. Light a candle, set out a cross or icon to help you focus; set your phone on Do Not Disturb, wash your hands. Take a few deep breaths and say a short prayer to prepare your heart to “enter” a different kind of space. We recommend the Collect for Purity:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prelude: *Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 547*

J. S. Bach

The Prelude, in a lilting 9/8 meter, begins with a series of concise, interrelated motives that are presented in a straightforward manner before being combined in ever more fanciful ways. Underneath this material Bach (1685-1750) presents a bell-like pedal theme. The hypnotic effect of the dance rhythm is broken only toward the end of the Prelude, where a series of detached chords heralds the final reiteration of the opening material. The Fugue that follows is one of Bach's most magnificent polyphonic essays. Bach constructs the entire Fugue from a short, one-measure long subject. A contrapuntal tour de force, the Fugue transports us to a special realm in which Bach combines art and artifice in equal measure.

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THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

2 Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Priest The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Brandon Haynes, Seminarian

Music for Reflection: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Hymn 135

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise, manifested by the star to the sages from afar; branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem; anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest. Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme; and at Cana, wedding-guest, in thy Godhead manifest; manifest in power divine, changing water into wine; anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest. Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul; manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might; manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill; anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest. Manifest on mountain height, shining in resplendent light, where disciples filled with awe thy transfigured glory saw. When from there thou leddest them steadfast to Jerusalem, cross and Easter Day attest God in man made manifest.

The St. Mark's Virtual Choir

This hymn references events in the life of Christ that are heard about in readings for the Epiphany season: his baptism, his first miracles, and his transfiguration. It is paired with a chorale harmonization by J. S. Bach.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984)
Music: *Salzburg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Form II, BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those in our community _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The celebrant concludes with prayers and a collect

The Lord's Prayer

Priest 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.**

The Offertory: *The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice: him serve with fear, his praise forth tell, come ye before him, and rejoice. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed. Without our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he doth us fee, and for his sheep he doth us take. O enter then his gates with praise, approach with joy his courts unto; praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do. For why? the Lord our God is good; his mercy is forever sure; his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God whom heaven and earth adore, from men and from the angel host be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

The St. Mark's Virtual Choir

Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) provided music for royal ceremonies several times during his long career; in the case of this arrangement the occasion was the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. It is a gloriously majestic setting of the hymn "All People That on Earth Do Dwell," with spectacular fanfares. There are also calmer moments: verse 4, for example, borrows from John Dowland's (1563-1626) setting of the text, harking back to the previous Elizabethan age.

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Announcements

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Postlude: *Alleluyas*

Simon Preston

Simon Preston (b. 1938) served as organist at Christ Church, Oxford and at Westminster Abbey before leaving church work to focus on his recital career. He is regarded as one of the great players of the 20th century. He was named Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2009 in recognition of his artistic achievements. This 1965 composition is prefaced by this quote from the 4th-century Liturgy of St. James:

At his feet the six-winged Seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Lord most high.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Join us for the final class in this series: *Who do you say that I am?* Class led by Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings. Nathan will begin a new series for Lent.

Ash Wednesday, February 17th, virtual services at 12pm and 7pm. Individually packaged ashes will be available for pickup on Ash Wednesday, between 8am-5pm, outside of the church offices, including instructions for you to use during your participation in the virtual service or at a different time with your household.

Wednesdays in Lent, beginning February 24th, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom: *Seeing Christ in the Darkness: Paint, Prayer & Poetry.* Fr. Zac, along with special guests, including the exhibits' curator Sandra Bowden, will lead discussions on St. Mark's new art exhibit by [Georges Rouault](#), on loan from The Sandra Bowden Collection.

Art Exhibit In-Person: your household is invited to see St. Mark's Lenten Art Exhibit (referenced above), in person by signing up for a 30-minute slot [here](#), on display in St. Mark's Sanctuary. Opportunities for in-person viewing are offered each week beginning February 24th, for three hours on both Wednesday mornings, and Thursday afternoons, respectively.

Stations of the Cross: a self-guided journey following the Stations of the Cross on St. Mark's Meditation Trail will be available throughout the season of Lent, beginning February 17th. Booklets will be in a small box near Station 1, which is located at the far end of the parking lot, near the storage sheds (at the end of the Day School buildings).

Lenten Retreat, Saturday, February 20th, 9 a.m. - noon: "Artful Contemplation." The retreat, open to all, is designed to allow you to come and go as desired. This Zoom event is free & open to *all* members of the parish.

- ❖ Bracketed by Morning Prayer & Noonday Prayer, our morning will include: Barbara White, St. Mark's seminarian, speaking on "God in the Wilderness;" Cindy Cabler, with a workshop titled "Create a Lenten Journal;" and Mother Mary will talk about "The Beauty in Brokenness." There will be a guided meditation and contemplative video interludes.
- ❖ Register [here](#) for the retreat. You will receive an email with all the details and zoom link in advance of the retreat. The retreat is sponsored by The Daughters of the King (DOK).

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Sunday Virtual Worship, 9:00 a.m.:** *Please join us online* - links available on our website.
- **Tuesday Noon Bible Study:** the link will be shared on our website. Focus of Study is 1 Samuel. All are welcome!
- **Morning Prayer meets 8:30 a.m. M-F.** Check our home page for the link: www.stmarksaustin.org.

PARISH INTERCESSION LIST

You are invited to use this Intercession List to pray for those listed below.

For healthcare workers and teachers: Heather, Michael B., Christine, Eric, Joan, Beth, Mac, Jodi, Courtney, Russ, Nicole, Jewellyn, Jana Kay, Steven, Pam, Marcille, Jesse, Laurie, Charles, Cilla, Jonea, Jennifer R., Jennifer S., Samuel, Mary, Jordan, Jeffrey, Kim, Michael T., Amber, Aaron, Sarah, Laurie, Carolyn, Jennifer, Chez, James., Cindy.

For those celebrating birthdays: Valentina David, Courtney Farris, Phyllis Millirons, Ariston Awitan III, Sarah Chacko, Morgan Dew, Robert Glover, Peter Stafford, Bryan Hunt-Murrieta, Jim Clark, Cort Considine, Sloan Kurak.

For those whom the Daughters of the King pray.

Lector: Mehron Azarmehr



ST.MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings, *Theologian-in-Residence*

Casey Bushman, *Director of Christian Formation*

Barbara Gausewitz, *Seminarian*

Brandon Haynes, *Seminarian*

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