

THE 10 AM SERVICE

# ST. MARK'S IN-THE VALLEY

MAY 9, 2021, THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

For now, please keep masks in place (except when consuming the sacrament) and maintain physical distance while on campus. Our patience with these considerations will likely only need to continue for a couple more months. Clergy and chalice bearers will bring communion to you at your seat.

**Prelude** (*seated*) *Andante*

W.A. Mozart

NICHOLE DECHAINED, *flutist* and BEVERLY STAPLES, *pianist*

THE WORD OF GOD

**Opening Acclamation** (*standing, as able*)

*Leader*        ✠ Alleluia! By death, Christ tramples death.

*All*            **To those in the tombs, Christ gives new life. Alleluia!**

*Standing, as able, all join in praying the canticle*

**Beloved let us love one another**

**because love is of God;**

**Everyone who loves comes from God**

**and knows God.**

**Those who do not love are not conscious of God,**

**for God is love.**

**God's love was revealed in our midst in this way:**

**by sending the Only Begotten into the world,  
that we might have faith through the Holy One.**

**Love, then, consists in this:**

**not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us**

**and has sent the Only Begotten to be an offering for our sins.**

**Beloved, if God has loved us so,**

**we must have the same love for one another.**

A Song of God's Love  
1 John 4:7-11

**The Collect of the Day** (*standing, as able*)

*Leader*        God is here.

*All*            **God's Spirit is with us.**

*Leader*        Let us pray.

*Leader*        God of abiding love, you choose us as your servants and dare to call us friends: take our fragmented hearts, commanding them to love, making whole our joy, our life reborn in you; through Jesus Christ, who laid down his life for us.

*All*            **Amen.**

from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, Steven Shakespeare

## THE 10 AM SERVICE

### The Readings

First Reading (*seated*)

1 John 5:1-6

*Reader* A reading from the First Letter of John

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah has been born of God. Everyone who loves God loves the One who has come from God. <sup>2</sup> We can be sure that we love God's children when we love God and do what God has commanded. <sup>3</sup> The love of God consists of this: that we keep God's commandments. And these commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup> Everyone born of God conquers the world, and the power that has conquered the world is our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who then can overcome the world? The one who believes that Jesus is the Only Begotten of God. <sup>6</sup> Jesus Christ came by water and blood—not by water alone, but with water and blood.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

*All* **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 98 (*remaining seated, we will pray responsively by whole verses*)

*Reader* <sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to God, who has worked wonders,  
whose right hand and holy arm have brought deliverance!

*All* <sup>2</sup> **God has made salvation known  
and shown divine justice to the nations,**

*Reader* <sup>3</sup> and has remembered in truth and love the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

*All* <sup>4</sup> **Shout to the Most High, all the earth,  
break into joyous songs of praise!**

*Reader* <sup>5</sup> Sing praise to God with the harp,  
with the harp and melodious singing!

*All* <sup>6</sup> **With trumpets and the blast of the shofar,  
raise a shout to God, Ruler of All.**

*Reader* <sup>7</sup> Let the sea and all within it thunder;  
the world and all its peoples.

*All* <sup>8</sup> **Let the rivers clap their hands  
and the hills ring out their joy**

*Reader* <sup>9</sup> before God, who comes to judge the earth,  
who will rule the world with justice and its peoples with equity.

The Gospel (*standing, as able*)

John 15:9-17

*Reader* The ✠ Holy Gospel of our ✠ Savior Jesus Christ ✠ according to John.

*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>9</sup> As God has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love. <sup>10</sup> And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I live on in Abba God's love and have kept God's commandments. <sup>11</sup> I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> And you are my friends, if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business. Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from God. <sup>16</sup> It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that whatever you ask of God in my name God will give you. <sup>17</sup> This command I give you: that you love one another.

*Reader* The Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

# THE 10 AM SERVICE

## Sermon (seated)

### Affirmation of Faith (standing, as able)

**All shall be Amen and Alleluia.  
We shall rest and we shall see.  
We shall see and we shall know.  
We shall know and we shall love.  
We shall love and we shall praise.  
Behold our end, which is no end. Amen.**

Saint Augustine, as found in  
An African Prayer Book,  
Desmond Tutu, ed., p. 33.

### A Note from Fran Pratt about this gospel reading and litany

A major lesson for me over the last few years has been around themes of minding my own business, managing my mind, and refraining from trying to "fix" or change other people. I am the only person whose mind I can change. My job is to do my own spiritual work and the work that the Spirit puts before me to do. My job is to love unconditionally and to forgive everything. By healing myself I heal the world.

This is both liberating AND a hard habit to break. Especially if, like me, you were raised to engage in Christian culture wars, to "win" (arguments, victories, souls, etc.), to be right and righteous, to "defend the faith." But the more I look at the life of Jesus, and listen to the promptings of the Spirit within me, the more deeply I understand the non-defensive, non-judgmental posture of the Christ. I think of him referring to the Pharisees as "white-washed tombs," so focused on the behaviors of other people and disregarding the state of their own hearts. He went to a whole death non-defensively, and got up preaching peace and forgiveness. Imagine it.

### Prayers of the People (standing, as able)

**Leader** God, everything you give,  
**All** **You give freely.**

**Leader** You make room for everyone  
who wants into your community,  
**All** **Everyone who wants to live on in love** <sup>1</sup>  
**Leader** Because we believe in the Peaceable Kin-dom <sup>2</sup>  
**All** **We don't feed the beast of war.**

**Leader** Because we live inside the Community of Heaven,  
**All** **We are free to love every person**  
**unconditionally.** <sup>3</sup>

**Leader** Because we embrace the imagination of Christ  
for the world,  
**All** **We get to embrace joy, too.**

**Leader** Because we trust you to judge  
with righteousness and equity <sup>4</sup>  
**All** **We don't have to judge.**

**Leader** Because we are covered by God's love and faithfulness, <sup>5</sup>  
**All** **We focus on the business at hand:**  
**Leader** Setting captives free,  
**All** **Practicing mercy,**

**Litany for Minding Our Own Business** by Litanist **Fran Pratt**, from her Patreon collections and her book *Call and Response, Litanies for Congregational Prayer*. Find out more about Fran and her work at **franpratt.com**. ©Fran Pratt Used with permission.

1. John 15:9
2. Isaiah 11
3. John 15:10
4. Psalm 98:9
5. Psalm 98:3
6. Psalm 98:1-5
7. 1 John 5:4

## THE 10 AM SERVICE

*Leader* Making true peace,  
*All* **And minding our own minds.**

*Leader* Instead of meddling in other people's beliefs or practices,  
*All* **We let our light shine,**  
*Leader* We abide in love, <sup>1</sup>  
*All* **We rejoice and sing.** <sup>6</sup>

*Leader* We know that arguments don't usually win us allies,  
*All* **So instead of wasting our energy, we harness it for good:**  
*Leader* We practice self-examination,  
*All* **We prioritize our collective healing,**  
*Leader* We divest from harmful systems,  
*All* **And build systems that benefit all.** <sup>7</sup>

*Leader* Help us to stay focused.  
*All* **Help us to mind the business you give us.**  
*Leader* And when we are tempted to try to correct others  
*All* **Or engage in futile conflicts,**  
*Leader* Grant us the grace to remain inside your peace,  
*All* **Full of love, joy complete. Amen.**

### **The Peace** (*standing, as able*)

*Leader* The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*All* **And also with you.**

*For now, please stay in place and share the peace with those nearest you with a bow or wave and greeting.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**At the Offertory** *Let us give, as each is able, according to the blessings God has given us.*

### **Voluntary** (*seated*) *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

Music Carolyn Jennings; arr. Zebulon Highben

Text Jean Janzen based on Julian of Norwich

NICHOLE DECHAIINE, *flutist, vocalist* and BEVERLY STAPLES, *pianist*

<sup>1</sup> Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.  
Creator, source of ev'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

<sup>2</sup> Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,  
grain of life and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

<sup>3</sup> Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one, in arms of patience hold me close,  
so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know.

### **Presenting and dedicating our gifts** (*standing, as able*)

*Leader* Asking: 'Why do you stand looking up into heaven?'  
Jesus comes to us again and again;

*All* **in all people, in the bread and wine of this table  
and in the communion of peace.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving** (*standing, as able*)

*Leader* God is here.

*All* **God's Spirit is with us.**

## THE 10 AM SERVICE

*Leader* Lift up your hearts.

*All* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Leader* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

*(seated / standing, as able)*

*Leader* We praise you, God of freedom, for you breathed life into the void and showed yourself as the one who loves in freedom.

From the nothingness of slavery you called a people into being and led them to springs of life; the presence of your glory went with shattered exiles into strange and distant lands and gathered from the valley of despair the flesh and blood of living hope.

In Jesus, you confronted the powers that killed and oppressed. You spoke to those considered dead and helped them stand again; you taught us to die that we might live.

You gave yourself for us tortured and forsaken, but you could not be confined by death; in the garden you speak our name, in the breaking of the bread you show yourself among us; by the lakeside, in the new day, you call us to take up your work.

Therefore, with all who lost faith, all who walked away in sadness, with the women at the tomb, and the men who hid in fear, we confess ourselves surprised by the suddenness of dawn and join the undying song of heaven:

*All* ***Holy, holy, holy: God of mercy, giver of life; earth, sea, sky, and all that lives, declare your presence and your glory. Hosanna in the highest.***

*Leader* We ask that your Holy Spirit will ✠ fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our savior, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me." As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith.

*All* ***Christ dies with us. Christ rises in us. Christ comes to us again and again.***

Therefore, we come to him in whom all is created in heaven and on earth, whose cross and resurrection make all things new.

We offer this to you, asking you to smile upon the gifts we bring, for you alone are the Giver and Christ's the gift through which we live once and for all.

Through the One who was emptied to bear your fullness we make our prayer with all created life to the glory of the God who fills all in all now and for ever.

*All* ***AMEN.***

*(seated or standing)*

*Leader* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All* ***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 10 AM SERVICE

## **The Breaking of the Bread** (*A period of silence is kept.*)

*Leader* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*All* ***We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.***

## **The Invitation** (*standing, as able*)

*Leader* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **The Communion** (*seated / standing, as able*)

*The ministers of communion will come to you. As you wish, remain seated until they do. Please stand, as able, to receive. Please receive the host in your hands and take the small cup from the tray to receive. It is customary to respond "Amen" to the words of administration. An acolyte will pick up your cup in a basket.*

*Minister* The Body of Christ, the Bread of heaven.

*Response* Amen.

*Minister* The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

*Response* Amen.

### **Communion is open to everyone.**

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are invited to receive communion here. You are welcome to come forward and take the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ.

## **At Communion** *Ave Maria*

*Franz Schubert*

NICHOLE DECHAINED, *vocalist* and BEVERLY STAPLES, *pianist*

## **Postcommunion Prayer** (*standing, as able*)

*Leader* Let us pray.

*All* ***Risen Christ, whom we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands, the word of life in whom our joy is complete: send us out to declare your truth, your unshakable faith in the world you love. Amen.***

## **The Blessing** (*standing, as able*)

*Leader* Jesus, strong deliverer and lover of souls, as you sent Mary of Magdala to tell the good news of your resurrection, so fill and embolden us that we may be active expressions of your love of this world today and every day; and the ✠ blessing of God Almighty: Creating Presence, Redeeming Christ, and Life-giving Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever.

*All* ***Amen.***

## **Dismissal** (*standing, as able*)

*Leader* ✠ Alleluia! By death, Christ tramples death.

*All* ***To those in the tombs, Christ gives new life. Alleluia!***

## **Postlude** (*seated*)

ST. MARK'S-IN-THE-VALLEY  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL  
LOS OLIVOS, CALIFORNIA

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