

St Mark's online chapel

Welcome to St Mark's online chapel!

How to join live 10.30am AEDST Tuesdays—Thursdays:

<https://stmarks.edu.au/about/worship-at-st-marks/>

**** WE ARE MOVING TO 'ZOOM' FROM TUESDAY APRIL 7 ****

See link above

1 April 2020

Led today by Andrew Cameron, Director of St Mark's

Welcome to our online chapel. If you're joining and this is new to you, please feel free to let it wash over you, and just join in as you are able. We try to say the short bold sections together, even though internet latency means it is a little garbled, Longer sections that Anglicans usually say together I'll nominate someone I know to say for us. You're always free to say 'pass', and I'll throw to someone else if I cannot hear you.

We always look at a part of the Bible shared by Christians all around the world on the same today. Today, we continue following Jesus in his showdown with the hard men of religion around him, in the week before they killed him.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts,” says the LORD.’ (Isaiah 55:9)

1

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing;
in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5.16–18

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

2 *The Opening Canticle, A Song of God's Grace*

Blessed are you,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
for you have blessed us in Christ Jesus

with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
You chose us to be yours in Christ
before the foundation of the world:
that we should be holy and blameless before you.
In love you destined us to be your children,
through Jesus Christ:
according to the purpose of your will,
To the praise of your glorious grace:
which you freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1.3–6

3 The Opening Prayer

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence may be kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.

4 The Psalms as appointed. A pause is observed after each.

Psalm 90

¹ Lord, you have been our refuge:
from one generation to another.

² Before the mountains were born
or the earth and the world were brought to be:
from eternity to eternity you are God.

³ You turn us back into dust:
saying 'Return to dust, O children of Adam.'

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday passing:
or like one watch of the night.

⁵ You cut them short like a dream:
like the fresh grass of the morning;

⁶ In the morning it is green and flourishes:
at evening it is withered and dried up.

⁷ And we are consumed by your anger:
because of your indignation we cease to be.

⁸ You have brought our iniquities before you:
and our secret sins to the light of your countenance.

⁹ Our days decline beneath your wrath:
and our years pass away like a sigh.

¹⁰ The days of our life are three score years and ten,
or if we have strength, four score:
the pride of our labours is but toil and sorrow,
for it passes quickly away and we are gone.

¹¹ Who can know the power of your wrath:
who can know your indignation like those that fear you?

¹² Teach us so to number our days:
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

¹³ Relent, O Lord; how long will you be angry?:
take pity on your servants.

¹⁴ O satisfy us early with your mercy:
that all our days we may rejoice and sing.

¹⁵ Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us:
for the years we have suffered adversity.

¹⁶ Show your servants your work:
and let their children see your glory.

¹⁷ May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon
us:
prosper the work of our hands,
O prosper the work of our hands!

5 At the end of the (last) pause there may follow

We consecrate this day to your service, O Lord; may all
our thoughts, words, and actions be well-pleasing to you
and serve the good of our brothers and sisters; through
Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

6 One or two Readings from the Bible as appointed.

Matthew 22.34-23.11

I ³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?'

³⁷ He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

II ⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?'

They said to him, 'The son of David.'

⁴³ He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ "The Lord said to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet' " ?

⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?'

⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

III 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; ³ therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach.

⁴ 'They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵ They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long.

⁶ 'They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi.

⁸ 'But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. ⁹ And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. ¹⁰ Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah.

¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant.

[mini-homily]: We continue hearing this series of episodes taking place in the temple in God's town, during the week before Jesus is murdered. We noticed yesterday what how barren and mistrusting and hate-filled are these times, as Jesus faces down hard, 'righteous', self-assured people in their den.

We heard him yesterday trying to cut through their clever evasions of God—and it hasn't worked. The 'testing' just continues. The lawyer's question is not a friendly one. Jesus has been asked this elsewhere by the spiritually curious, but here it is asked maliciously. And Jesus repeats what he has always said on this matter: that you can discern a topography in that mass of Hebrew law—that if you inhabit the 'loves' mentioned Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, you know the purpose of the law given by the One who regards himself as 'abounding in steadfast love' (Exodus 4:6). But it's lost on them, and I can't help imagining a forlornness in Jesus as yet once more, even to the last, he tries to help them see—love.

Then in our 'Part II' there follows a riposte of his own: if you are so clever in relation to the Hebrew Scripture, what do you make of King David, in the start of Psalm 110, explicitly referring to a 'Lord' over David, yet being blessed by God? 'David's greater Son', as this figure became known? Jesus doesn't necessarily imply that this figure is himself. But he may. It's unsettling, and it rattled them, and probably would have sealed his doom even without what comes next.

But in Part III, the gloves are off. It had to be what killed him. The final indictment against a form or religion that makes a complete travesty of the Law of Moses that they are supposed to convey.

I can think of no more unsettling word to we who aspire to bringing God to people. The ease with which we can lay burdens on others, and become religious narcissists, is utterly haunting, and absolutely as impenetrable now as then, if we enter that space.

The escape from narcissism is plainly said: be servants. Not, 'act like servants', in some weird Christian narcissistic perversion of Jesus' words. Just let's be them. And love God, his Messiah, and our neighbours.

Now that would be a great outcome, COVID or not, this Lent.

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

7 The Canticle, Te Deum Laudamus

I We praise you, O God:
we acclaim you as Lord.
All creation worships you:
the Father everlasting.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven:
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

II The glorious company of apostles praise you:
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you:

Throughout the world, the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded:
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

III You, Christ, are the King of glory:
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free:
you humbly chose the virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death:
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory:
We believe that you will come to be our judge.

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood:
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.**

9 The Prayers

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

10 The Lord's Prayer and the Collect of the Day

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer of the Week

Fifth Sunday in Lent

We thank you, heavenly Father,
that you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

we pray that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his presence abiding in us
he may raise us to joys eternal;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

11 Intercessions and Thanksgivings.

*Prayers from Canberra-Goulburn Anglican Bishops
(see them asking for our prayers below ...)*

God of grace, we pray for the churches of our diocese, for their
clergy and people. In this time of uncertainty and distress, we
grieve that we cannot meet together in person to worship you.
Give us all strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick and
to assure the isolated of our love and your love.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, we pray for our bishops Mark, Carol and Stephen and all assisting them. Give them wisdom, compassion and resilience as they lead us, and for all the parishes and ministry units of our diocese that we may find strength and inspiration in our unity in Christ.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Son of God, we pray for our community, for those who may lose their livelihood as a result of imposed restrictions; for those who may lose their lives or lose someone near and dear. You taught us to love our neighbour and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. Help us to support each other in any way we can. We are your people, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs, for as long as it takes, wherever you call us.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

'A liturgy for Domestic Days'
from D. K. McKelvey, **Every Moment Holy** (Nashville, TN: Rabbit Room Press), pp. 15–17

12 The Morning Collect

Eternal God and Father,
by whose power we are created
and by whose love we are redeemed:

guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live this day in love
to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

13

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A blessing (APBA p. 222)

All our problems,
we send to the cross of Christ

All our difficulties,
we send to the cross of Christ.

All the devil's works,
we send to the cross of Christ.

All our hopes,
we set on the risen Christ.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you
and scatter the darkness before your path;

and may the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.