



WELCOME TO

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WHERE ALL SOULS ARE WELCOME. INTENTIONALLY INCLUSIVE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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www.stmichaelsridgecrest.org

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

Zoom Meeting ID: 928 461 1047, Passcode: StMichael

FEAST OF ST. MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

Feb. 24, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Presider: The Rev. Paul Clark

Reader: Sandy Davis

Responder: Dave Waller

For news and events, please visit our website: www.stmichaelsridgecrest.org.

Please continue to mail your offerings to the church (at the mailing address above) or to give to the church online using tithe.ly (<https://tithe.ly/give?c=2212452>).

OPENING SENTENCE

1 JOHN 1:8-9

(BCP p. 76)

Presider: 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.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

(BCP p. 116)

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silent confession will be observed.

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.

Priest: 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

Presider: O God, be not far from us.

Responder: Come quickly to help us, O God.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

O GRACIOUS LIGHT

(EOW p. 23)

Presider and responder

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God's eternal face,
Transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to our race.
Now, as we see the lights of evening,
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;
Worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.

PSALM APPOINTED

PSALM 15

(BCP p. 599)

Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.

- ¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- ² **Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, ***
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- ³ There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- ⁴ **In his sight the wicked is rejected, ***
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- ⁵ He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- ⁶ **He does not give his money in hope of gain, ***
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- ⁷ Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.



THE READINGS

THE FIRST READING

ACTS 1:15-26

SANDY DAVIS

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES:

Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it'; and 'Let another take his position of overseer.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

THE SONG OF MARY

LUKE 1:46-55

(EOW p. 27)

Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior; *
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name.

You have mercy on those who fear you *
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm, *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones, *
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things, *
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,

The promise you made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.



THE SECOND READING

JOHN 15:1,6-16

SANDY DAVIS

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN:

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

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

THE SONG OF SIMEON

LUKE 2:29-32

(BCP p. 120)

Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.

Lord, you now have set your servant free *

to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *

whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, *

and the glory of your people Israel.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

APOSTLES' CREED

(BCP p. 120)

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(BCP p. 121)

Presider: God be with you.

Responder: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

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 B

(BCP p. 122)

Presider: That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

Responder: We entreat you, O Lord.

Presider: That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

Responder: We entreat you, O Lord.

Presider: That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

Responder: We entreat you, O Lord.

Presider: That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

Responder: We entreat you, O Lord.

Presider: That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,
and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

Responder: We entreat you, O Lord.

Presider: That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of
Saint Michael and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to
Christ,

Responder: We entreat you, O Lord.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be guided and governed by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

(BCP p. 124)

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 ALL CHRISTIANS IN THEIR VOCATION

(BCP p. 256)

(Today is the first of the three Spring Ember Days)

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR MISSION

(BCP p. 124)

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider asks: Are there any prayers or thanksgivings you wish to offer?

The congregation may offer their requests and thanksgivings.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

(BCP p. 125)

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.

Presider Let us bless the Lord

Responder Thanks be to God.

CLOSING SENTENCE

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

(BCP p. 126)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.



EMBER DAYS

Three days which occur four times a year: the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after St. Lucy's Day (Dec. 13), Ash Wednesday, the Day of Pentecost, and Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14). The name comes from the Latin title *Quattuor tempora*, meaning "four times." In ancient Italy the times (originally three) were associated with sowing, harvest, and vintage, for which one prayed, fasted, and gave alms. Later the four times became occasions for ordination, for which the Christian community prayed and the candidates prepared themselves by prayer and retreat. The BCP appoints proper collects and readings for this observance under the title "For the Ministry (Ember Days), including propers "For those to be ordained," "For the choice of fit persons for the ministry," and "For all Christians in their vocation" (BCP, pp. 256-257, 929).



SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

Feast Day: February 24

In the nine days of waiting between Jesus' Ascension and the Day of Pentecost, the disciples remained together in prayer. During this time, Peter reminded them that the defection and death of Judas had left the fellowship of the Twelve with a vacancy. The Acts of the Apostles records Peter's proposal that "one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection" (Acts 1:21–22). Two men were nominated, Joseph called Barsabbas who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. After prayer, the disciples cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias, who was then enrolled with the eleven.

Scripture does not relate anything further about Matthias, but gives him as an example to Christians of one whose faithful companionship with Jesus qualifies him to be a suitable witness to the resurrection, and whose service is unheralded and unsung.

There are, however, several non-biblical early Christian accounts of his mission and ministry. Matthias according to tradition travelled to Syria with Andrew. According to the *Martyrdom of Matthias* he was sent to Damascus, and died at Phalaeon, a city of Judea. Other sources mention Jerusalem as the place of Matthias' ministry and burial.

The people of Saint Michael's welcome all those who seek a deeper understanding of God's love for ALL His children. Our congregation is "intentionally inclusive," welcoming all persons without regard to age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or developmental disability.

This service conforms to Daily Evening Prayer: Rite Two, which begins on page 115 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Scripture readings are appointed by the Daily Office Lectionary and are excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA. Psalm texts are taken from the BCP. Other liturgical elements may include materials compiled from Episcopal Church publications including *Enriching Our Worship* (EOW), the 2018 Book of Occasional Services (BOS), and the 2018 Lesser Feasts and Fasts (LFF).