



WELCOME TO

# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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[www.stmichaelsridgecrest.org](http://www.stmichaelsridgecrest.org)

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## EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

Zoom Meeting ID: 928 461 1047, Passcode: StMichael

**WEDNESDAY IN THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT**

Mar. 3, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

**JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY, PRIESTS, 1791, 1788**

Presider: The Rev. Paul Clark

Reader: Richard Hendricks

Responder: Sandy Davis

For news and events, please visit our website: [www.stmichaelsridgecrest.org](http://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.



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## 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 31:9-16

*Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.*

- <sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; \*  
my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
and also my throat and my belly.
- <sup>10</sup> For my life is wasted with grief,  
and my years with sighing; \*  
my strength fails me because of affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.
- <sup>11</sup> I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,  
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; \*  
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- <sup>12</sup> I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; \*  
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- <sup>13</sup> For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;  
fear is all around; \*  
they put their heads together against me;  
they plot to take my life.
- <sup>14</sup> But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. \*  
I have said, "You are my God.
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.
- <sup>16</sup> Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me."

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

JEREMIAH 18:1–11,18–20

RICHARD HENDRICKS

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH:

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings. Then they said, “Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah—for instruction shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us bring charges against him, and let us not heed any of his words.”

Give heed to me, O Lord,  
and listen to what my adversaries say!

Is evil a recompense for good?  
Yet they have dug a pit for my life.

Remember how I stood before you  
to speak good for them,  
to turn away your wrath from them.

*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

MATTHEW 20:17-28

RICHARD HENDRICKS

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW:

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised."

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

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



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## 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.



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## 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 A

(BCP p. 122)

- 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.

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, you inspired your servants John and Charles Wesley with burning zeal for the sanctification of souls and endowed them with eloquence in speech and song: Kindle such fervor in your church, we entreat you, that those whose faith has cooled may be warmed, and those who have not known Christ may turn to him and be saved; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



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## **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 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:* I invite your prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.  
*The people may offer their intercessions 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.



## JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY

Priests, 1791, 1788

John was the fifteenth, and Charles the eighteenth, child of Samuel Wesley, Rector of Epworth, Lincolnshire, and his wife, Susannah. John was born on June 17, 1703, and Charles on December 18, 1707. Of the nineteen Wesley siblings, only ten lived to maturity. Under their mother's tutelage, all of them were schooled each day in six-hour sessions, always begun and concluded with the singing of psalms.

Their theological writings and sermons are still widely appreciated, but it is through their hymns—especially those of Charles, who wrote over six thousand of them—that their religious experience, and their Christian faith and life, continue to touch the hearts of many.

Both Wesleys were educated at Christ Church, Oxford, John later being elected a fellow of Lincoln College, where they gathered a few friends to join a "Holy Club" in strict adherence to the worship and discipline of the Prayer Book, and were thus given the name "Methodists." John was ordained in 1728 and Charles in 1735. Both were profoundly attached to the doctrine and worship of the Church of England, although they were deeply moved by and critical of the church's neglect of the poor. Their affection for the Church of England remained despite abusive opposition to their cause and methods.

The two brothers went together to Georgia in 1735, John as a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and Charles as secretary to James Oglethorpe, the Governor. The mission was a disaster, and both brothers returned to England, dejected and disappointed. Shortly after their return home, however, they each experienced an inner conversion. On May 21, 1738—Pentecost—Charles "felt the Spirit of God striving with his spirit 'till by degrees He chased away the darkness of unbelief." Three days later, at a meeting on May 24 in Aldersgate Street in London with a group of Moravians, during a reading of Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, John recorded, "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

So the revival was born. The two brothers placed a strong emphasis on preaching, and appointed lay people, both men and women, as preachers and evangelists to work together with the clergy in proclaiming the gospel.

The formal separation of the Methodists from the Church of England occurred only after the deaths of the two brothers in London—Charles on March 29, 1788, and John on March 2, 1791. In recent decades there has been increased cooperation and growth in agreement between Anglicans and Methodists, and growing appreciation for our common heritage.

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*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).