



# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, RIDGECREST

*Where All Souls Are Welcome*

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## EVENING PRAYER: RITE TWO

*Wednesday after the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ November 15, 2023, 6 p.m.*

**PRESIDER**

Richard Hendricks

**READER**

Dave Waller

*The presider is seated informally (no procession).*

### OPENING SENTENCE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Presider and People together, all kneeling:*

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.**

*The Presider remains kneeling and says,*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

### THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

*Please stand as able.*

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.**

### O GRACIOUS LIGHT

(EOW p. 23)

*Presider and **people** alternate by whole verse.*

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.**

*Please be seated.*

**PSALM APPOINTED**

PSALM 82

*Presider and people alternate by whole verse.*

THE PSALM APPOINTED IS PSALM 82.

God takes his stand in the council of heaven; \*  
he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:

**"How long will you judge unjustly, \*  
and show favor to the wicked?"**

Save the weak and the orphan; \*  
defend the humble and needy;

**Rescue the weak and the poor; \*  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

They do not know, neither do they understand;  
they go about in darkness; \*  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**Now I say to you, 'You are gods, \*  
and all of you children of the Most High;**

Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, \*  
and fall like any prince."

**Arise, O God, and rule the earth, \*  
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**THE READINGS**

**THE FIRST READING**

NEHEMIAH 7:73B-8:3,5-18

READER

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH.

So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel settled in their towns. When the seventh month came—the people of Israel being settled in their towns—all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

On the second day the heads of ancestral houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to the scribe Ezra in order to study the words of the law. And they found it written in the law, which the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the people of Israel should live in booths during the festival of the seventh month, and that they should publish and proclaim in all their towns and in Jerusalem as follows, "Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written." So the people went out and brought them, and made booths for themselves, each on the roofs of their houses, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them; for from the days of Jeshua son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the book of the law of God. They kept the festival seven days; and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as able.*

**THE SONG OF MARY**

LUKE 1:46-55

(EOW p. 27)

*Presider and **people** 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 forever.**

*Please be seated.*

**THE SECOND READING**

MATTHEW 15:29-39

READER

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way."

The disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?"

Jesus asked them, "How many loaves have you?"

They said, "Seven, and a few small fish."

Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as able.*

**THE SONG OF SIMEON**

LUKE 2:29-32

(BCP p. 120)

*Presider and **people** 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.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION**

## APOSTLES' CREED

(BCP p. 120)

*Please stand as able for the Apostles' Creed.*

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

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **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)

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful.

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

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

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

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

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

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

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

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

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael the Archangel, and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

PROPER 27

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**A COLLECT FOR TRAVELERS**

*(BCP p. 831)*

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel, in particular Padre Jorge and Deacon Cathy; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM III**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Presider concludes with the following collect.*

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.**

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

(BCP p. 125)

*Presider and people.*

**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.**

### A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

(BCP p. 126)

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Then may be said*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Presider may then conclude with the following*

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.**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

***This concludes our service.***

### OUR MISSION

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

### CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Pray for Padre Jorge and Deacon Cathy as they are at Clergy Retreat.

We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop and David our Bishop. We also pray for Joseph our President, Gavin our Governor, and Eric our Mayor. *Please remember in your prayers Stan, Rita, Sandy, Bob, Dinnie, and the students at Mesquite High School.*

## **PLEASE GIVE**

Mail your pledges and offerings to: St. Michael's Episcopal Church,  
PO Box 1630, Ridgecrest, CA 93556  
Contribute to the church online at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z9KQ/home>

## **NEWS AND EVENTS**

**Weekly Services:** Services in English: Sundays at 10 a.m. and Wed. Evenings at 6 p.m.  
Services in Spanish: Sundays at 12 Noon.

**Cathedral Livestream:** As an alternative for those unable to attend our Sunday services in person, St. James Episcopal Cathedral offers a livestream of their service.

Link: [www.youtube.com/@StJamesEpiscopalCathedral/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@StJamesEpiscopalCathedral/streams)

**Forward Day by Day:** The "Forward Day by Day" devotional booklets for November, December, and January are available now. Many people use this publication as part of their regular prayer life. If you do or would like to, be sure to pick one up in the lobby.

### **The Food Pantry Needs Thanksgiving Turkeys**

All Souls Food Pantry is looking for donations for our Thanksgiving distribution on Tuesday, November 21. We need turkeys and in the past our local grocery stores have offered either discounts or free turkeys with your grocery purchases. We would gratefully appreciate any turkey donations. Please contact Deacon Cathy for pickup or delivery information.

**Next Bishop's Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, November 29.

### **"He is the Light" - Ridgecrest Interfaith Nativity Festival**

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior. A live Nativity will be on display outside for all to see. Then come inside to warm up and tour the displays.

Location: Latter Day Saints, 1031 S. Norma Street

Time: Friday, December 8, 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, December 9, 3-8 p.m.

**Ministry Vacancies:** We need ushers, greeters, and offering counters.

At our Annual Meeting in January, we will need to elect two new members to the Bishop's Committee.

Also, the Bishop's Committee will need to elect a new treasurer.

Please contact Padre Jorge or Deacon Cathy if you are interested.

### **Food Ministry Dates**

- The Thrift Store Co-Op is open every Wednesday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Monday, November 20: CAPK Senior Box Day, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 21: Food Pantry is open 9-11 a.m. (Corrected date!)