

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
AGAPE OPENING DAY  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020      PROPER 19

Opening Hymn 410 "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven"

*Lauda anima*

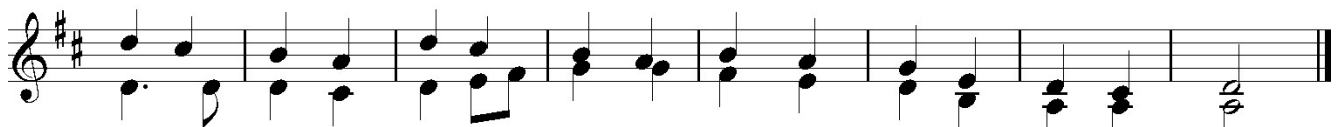
*Unison or harmony*



1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;  
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;  
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;



ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:  
praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
in his hand he gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.  
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte. Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss

**Confession and Absolution**      *NZ Prayer Book adapted*

*Deacon* Happy are those whose sins are forgiven,  
whose wrongs are pardoned.  
I will confess my sins to God,  
I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

*Silence*

*People*      **God forgives and heals us.**  
***We need your healing, merciful God:***  
***give us true repentance.***  
***Some sins are plain to us;***  
***some escape us,***  
***some we cannot face.***

***Forgive us;  
set us free to hear your word to us;  
set us free to serve you.***

*Presider* God forgives you.  
Forgive others;  
forgive yourself.

### **Opening Acclamation**

*Presider:* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
*People:* ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

### **The Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

### **Trisagion**

*Presider:* Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,  
*People:* ***Have mercy upon us.***

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* ***And also with you.***  
*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

### **The Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.  
*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

### **Psalm 103:8-13** *Benedic, anima mea*

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

### The Epistle: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Sequence Hymn 411 "O bless the Lord, my soul"

*St. Thomas*



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!  
2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!  
3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;  
4 He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;  
5 He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;



1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!  
2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.  
3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.  
4 he heal - eth thine in - fir - mi - ties and ran - soms thee from death.  
5 and like the ea - gle he re - news the vi - gor of thy youth.

6 Then bless his holy Name,  
whose grace hath made thee whole,  
whose loving-kindness crowns thy days:  
O bless the Lord, my soul!

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

### **The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord

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

### **The Homily**

**The Rev. Mark Kozielec**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God.

*All: We believe in God the Creator,  
infinite in wisdom, mercy and love,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Son of man,  
the gift of God’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope,  
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
the divine presence in our lives,  
who sustains and strengthens us, especially in our time of need.  
We believe in one God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,  
and that our faith should manifest itself in the service of love  
as set forth in the example of our blessed Savior,  
that the realm of God may come upon the earth. Amen.*

### **Prayers of the People**

*Leader* Our God is a God of unity, not of division; of love, not of hate; of forgiveness, not of resentment. With open hearts, bearing the pain of the world, let us pray to the Lord, praying, O God of mercy and justice, ***“Your love endures forever.”***

We pray for the church throughout the world, that we may be of complete communion in the Holy Spirit;  
For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for Mark our Rector, for Jerre our Deacon, and  
for all the holy People of God;  
In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people and ministry of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Fulton;

In the Anglican Cycle, we pray for the Anglican Church of South America;  
In our companion Diocese of Lui, we pray for the people of Lanyi Parish;  
In the local ecumenical cycle, we pray for our sisters and brothers at St. Gabriel the Archangel Roman Catholic Church;  
We pray for our ministry outreach partner Doorways Interfaith Housing, its clients, staff, volunteers and supporters;  
We give thanks on their birthdays with Ellen Jeffery, Carey Tisdal, Jack Shelton, and Carlos Carrillo, and on their anniversary with Kevin and Kathy Tracy.  
We pray, O God of mercy and justice,  
***Your love endures forever.***

For the leaders of the nations; for mercy, justice and peace in the world; and for an end to wars and threats of war; we pray, O God, of mercy and justice,  
***Your love endures forever.***

For our city and those who live in it, for farmers and abundant fruits of the earth, and that the world's wealth may be used in the furtherance of your kingdom; we pray, O God, of mercy and justice,  
***Your love endures forever.***

For all who are ill with the COVID-19 virus, those in isolation away from their loved ones, those who have been hurt economically, and those who mourn the loss of loved ones. For the protection of our health care providers, first responders, and all those who put their own health at risk to serve your people; we pray, O God of mercy and justice,  
***Your love endures forever.***

For all school children, college students, and their teachers, that they may be safe and educationally nourished in this uncertain time of pandemic; we pray, O God of mercy and justice,  
***Your love endures forever.***

We pray for the sick, those suffering from addiction and their families; we pray for the hungry, homeless, and oppressed; all immigrants and refugees; the victims of violence and abuse; for those attempting to rebuild their lives after wildfires in the western U.S.;  
We pray for those on our Parish Prayer list, and those whom we name, either silently or aloud [pause];  
For those serving in the armed forces; we pray, O God of mercy and justice,  
***Your love endures forever.***

For ourselves, our families, and companions, and all those we love; we pray, O God of mercy and justice,  
***Your love endures forever.***

For all who have died, especially The Rev. Stanley C. Cliver and for those who grieve; we pray, O God of mercy and justice,  
***Your love endures forever.***

*The Presider offers this concluding collect*  
God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. Through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

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

***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 Agape**

*While sharing a common Eucharistic celebration is not possible at this time, this liturgy expresses our longing for a time when we can once more share and gather together at the Eucharistic table. This practice of giving thanks for bread, wine and food is ancient, going back to the hospitality our ancestor Abraham showed to his visitors. While not the full celebration of the Holy Eucharist, there is a relationship, in much the same way that giving thanks over water is a reminder of our Baptism. A suitable space is prepared with wine, bread, and other foods.*

*The Presider and people give thanks for the gift of wine.*

*Presider: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.*

*People: You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.*

*The Presider and people give thanks for the gift of our daily bread.*

*Presider: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.*

*People: You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the bread of life the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.*

*The Officiant and people give thanks for the gift of food.*

*Presider: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.*

*People: You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

*The wine, bread and food may be consumed after the liturgy.*

### **The Conclusion**

*Presider: God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son. In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.*

*People: You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.*

*Presider: Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.*

*People: Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.*

*People And also with you.*

*We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.*

### The Blessing

*Presider* May the God who Creates, Liberates, and Sustains, bless you and keep you, this day and always.

*People* **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn "Go forth for God"

1 Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good  
2 Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the  
3 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the  
4 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's

cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace, in God's good Spir - it  
faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;  
good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one  
peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our

dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we see face to  
rich - ly from a - bove God's love sup - plies the grace and power we  
e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his  
ev - ery gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's

face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.  
seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love.  
light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.  
power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

WORDS: J. R. Peacey (1896-1971)

MUSIC: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; harm. C. Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt.

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GENEVA 124

10.10.10.10.10.

## The Dismissal

*Deacon* Let us go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The bread, wine and food may now be shared.*

## ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

*Lectors:* Vicki Stegmann, Kathy Tracy

*Responses:* Scott Thompson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Online Giving via Tithe.ly Now Available

St. Mark's has chosen Tithe.ly as our online giving resource. Importantly, Tithe.ly is an *option* for St. Mark's parishioners, to make payments to the Church. Using Tithe.ly is not required and you may continue making payments as in the past. Please go to our website <http://www.saintmarks-stl.org> and click on the **DONATE** button to get started.

### In the Markings this week:

- Episcopal Church Women News - ECW events including the Diocesan retreat and annual meeting on Oct. 17th, and other ECW events in our province.
- Agape Liturgy info for Today—Opening Day!
- Nominations Call for Leadership Positions in the Diocese
- Immigration and the Election
- Episcopal City Mission Gala Info
- Church reopening info

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**We pray for** Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Deon our Bishop, for Mark our Rector, for Jerre our Deacon, and for all the holy People of God;

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Fulton;

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the Anglican Church of South America;

**In our companion Diocese of Lui**, we pray for the Lanyi Parish;

**In our local Ecumenical cycle of Prayer**, we pray for our sisters and brothers at the Church of St. Gabriel the Archangel;

**We pray for** our ministry outreach partner Doorways Interfaith Housing, its clients, staff, volunteers and supporters.

**We pray for those who are ill**, in trouble or distress of any kind, especially Vickie B., Lynn Kiamie Bianchini, Tom Bradley, Jessica Bueler, Andy Burke, Marianne and Steve Chamberlin, Mike Diekemper and the Diekemper family, Laura Elder, Bob Frish, Carol Garbs, Randy and Janet Gerhls, Andrea Gross, Scott Kaufman, Kathy & Gary Kraleman, Jenny Mullikin, Neicee Nelson, Gary & Kathy Makely, Robin Mendica, Nina Olmsted, Nancy Raedeke, Susan Raedeke, Chris Reeves, Gene Rich, Linda Ritterskamp, Tom Schlipp, Ann Vannier, Kathy Watts, Lindsay Watts, Maggie White, Marilyn and David Wiethop, Jessica Winstead, Cheryl Wyatt, Matt and his family, Aidan, Penny, Sheeran, Linnea and her family, Carmen, Leslie, Mark, Logan, Audrey, Nicholas, Ashley, Susan, Keith, Marsha, Jen, Jessica, Ethan, Kathleen, Torri, Laurie, Gary, Lisa, Mike, Brenda, Becky, Elizabeth, Eric, and Lauren.

**We pray for** those who have died, especially The Rev. Stanley C. Cliver.

**We pray for** those serving in the armed forces, especially Brett Murray, Jon Foy, Alec Garbs, Robert McCarthy, Brandon George, Jon Moore, Paul Malabar, Chris Weinrich, and Matthew.

**We give thanks** on their birthdays with Ellen Jeffery, Carey Tisdal, Jack Shelton, and Carlos Carrillo, and on their anniversary with Kevin and Kathy Tracy.

## SAINT MARK'S CHURCH

*An Episcopal Church Where Each Person is Valued*

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The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson    Bishop of MO  
The Rev. Mark Kozielec       Rector  
The Rev. Jerre Birdsong      Deacon

Barbara Raedeke    Organist and Choir Director  
Celeste Kocot       Youth Christian Formation  
Carol Eschbacher    Parish Administrator