



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

GEHAN PERERA

July 21, 1946 – May 20, 2023



July 30, 2023

2:00 PM

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.

Welcome to Saint Mark's Cathedral. Out of respect for the liturgy we are about to celebrate, please turn off all cell phones and audible devices. Please, no photography during the liturgy.

- PRELUDE** *Aria on a Ground "St. Anne"* Rebecca Groom te Velde
(Tune of Hymn 680, "O God, our help in ages past")
- Improvisation on "Seek Ye First"
(Tune of Hymn 711, "See ye first the kingdom of God")
- Nimrod from *Enigma Variations*, Op. 36 Edward Elgar

THE OPENING RITE

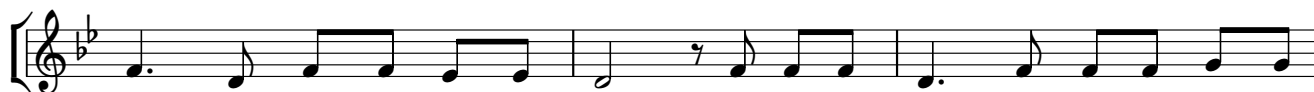
WELCOME The Reverend Linzi Stahlecker

Please stand, as able.

OPENING HYMN *How great thou art* ♦ *sung by all* TUNE: *Swedish folk melody*



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - si - der
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, and hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion and take me



all the worlds thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze,
bear - ing, he bled and died to take a - way my sin.
ra - tion, and there pro - claim: "My God, how great thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sa-vior, God, to thee: "How great thou art! How great thou



art!" Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to thee: "How great thou art! How great thou art!"

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Enriching Our Worship 1, p. 50

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider **A**Lmighty 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.

All **Amen.**

OPENING REFLECTION

Michael Perera

Please stand, as able.

THE COLLECT

Enriching Our Worship 3, p. 31

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O GOD of grace and glory,
we remember Gehan before you
and thank you for giving him to us to know and to love
as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth.
In your compassion, console those who mourn.
Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up
in the victory of Christ
so that we may live in confidence and hope
until, by your call, we are gathered
into the company of all your saints;
by the power of your Holy Spirit we pray.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated for the Liturgy of the Word.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING *Grief is non-negotiable*, by Nick Cave

read by Em Eppley

PSALM *Psalm 91* ♦ *read responsively by whole verse*

Qui habitat

HE WHO dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
Habides under the shadow of the Almighty.

He shall say to the LORD,

**“You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.

**He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings; *
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.**

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

**Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.**

A thousand shall fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, *
but it shall not come near you.

**Your eyes have only to behold *
to see the reward of the wicked.**

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,

**There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.**

For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and the adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent
under your feet.

Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation. ♦

READING

Romans 8:26-27, 38-39

read by Carrie Kahler

THE SPIRIT helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand, as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN *It is well with my soul* ♦ sung by all

TUNE: *Ville du Havre*

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my
2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should
3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be

1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;
2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,
3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—
4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

1. say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
2. tate, And has shed His own blood for my soul.
3. more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
4. scend, "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *John 15:9-17*

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

JESUS said to his 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY

The Reverend Linzi Stahlecker

Following the homily, the assembly is invited into a period of silence, reflecting on the scriptures and sermon.

Please stand, as able, when the Presider stands to introduce the Creed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

led by Michael Seewer

Intercessor Gracious God, you remind us that if our hearts break, it is because we have loved, and have been loved. Thank you for the gift of love from our parents and our parental figures; and we thank you for the love of Gehan Perera, for his love for his family, and for the ways it has manifested far and wide.

All Amen.

Intercessor Merciful God, you remind us that our time here is short, and that we must be swift to love, to make haste to be kind, and to readily gladden the hearts of those who walk this world with us. We thank you for the life of Gehan Perera; for his courage, for his patience, for his unflinching trust in the goodness and mercy you have given us.

All Amen.

Intercessor Compassionate God, you remind us that our common life depends on each other; we thank you for the gift of community; that across different walks of life, you have drawn us together to support and care for each other in times of need. Thank you for the bonds that unite us, that strengthen us, and that hold us up when our bones are tired and our hearts are heavy.

All Amen.

Intercessor Grieving God, made manifest in Jesus Christ, you remind us that you, too, know the pain of loss; you, too, have shed tears for those you loved. We remember all those who have touched our lives and who we see no longer; we thank you for how their presence is still with us, in our memories and in our hopes; and we give thanks that, in the fullness of your time, we will be reunited.

All Amen.

Intercessor God of love, we know all too well the moments in our lives when words cannot suffice; we thank you that you know us, and you know our hearts, and accept us and love us when there is nothing more we can say. We ask your blessings on Gehan Perera, and Shirani Perera; your grace on Bernadette, Michael, and Marian Perera; and your boundless and fierce love for those of us here, and those in our hearts.

All Amen.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

All stand, as able.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah* ♦ *sung by all*

TUNE: *Cwm Rhondda*

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim though this bar - ren land;
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand;
let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through;
death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side;

bread of hea - ven, bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er - more, (ev - er - more)
strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer. be thou still my strength and shield, (strength and shield)
songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to thee, (give to thee)

feed me now and ev - er - more.
be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee.

Presider God be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

***All* Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death

and to reveal the riches of your grace,

you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,

that she might conceive and bear a son,

Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,

healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself

yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross

the sacrifice of his life,

and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

“Take, eat:

This is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.

Again, he gave thanks to you,

gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you:

This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,

do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with Mary, Mark, and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever.

All AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All 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.

In silence, the Presider breaks the consecrated bread. Silence is kept.

THE FRACTION

Enriching Our Worship 1, p. 69

Presider We break this bread
to share in the Body of Christ.
People We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All may be seated for the time of Communion. All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table.

Please follow the directions of the Liturgical Ministers. The bread will be placed into your outstretched palm. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, simply ask for one at the time of Communion. If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please cross your arms in front of your chest.

Intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is not available at this time. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, please cross your arms in front of your chest as you pass by the chalice. The full grace of the sacrament is received with only the bread.

1. Great is Thy faith-fulness, O God my Fa-ther; There is no sha-dow of turn-ing with thee;
 2. Summer and win-ter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their cours-es a - bove
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou changest not, thy com - passions, they fail not; As thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 join with all na-ture in ma - ni - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 strength for to-day and bright hope for to-morrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-fulness! Great is thy faith-fulness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see;

all I have need-ed thy hand hath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

All stand, as able.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship 1, p. 69

Presider God of abundance,
All you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING *The Presider asks God's blessing on the assembly. All respond: Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* ♦ *sung by all*

TUNE: *Hyfrydol*

1. Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the scep - ter, his the throne;
2. Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now;
4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the Lord of lords we own:

Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone;
Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how:
Al - le - lu - ia! born of Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heav'n thy throne:

Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood;
though the cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty days were o'er,
thou with - in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest:

Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.
 shall our hearts for - get his prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er more"?
 thou on earth both Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain standing for the closing voluntary and procession of ministers.

VOLUNTARY Ode to Joy from *Symphony No. 9 in D-minor, Op. 125*

Ludwig van Beethoven

All are invited to join the reception in Bloedel Hall. To access Bloedel Hall, go to the first floor by using the stairs on the west side of the nave, or by using the elevator in the southwest corner.

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

PRESIDER & PREACHER

The Reverend Linzi Stahlecker

ACOLYTE

Ray Miller

ALTAR GUILD

Sharon Ferguson

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Rose Hazard
 Kevin Johnson

USHERS

Janet Miller
 John Weintraub

REFLECTION

Michael Perera

LECTORS

Em Epply
 Carrie Kahler

INTERCESSOR

Michael Seewer

MUSICIAN

John Stuntebeck

SOUND BOARD

Micah Hayes

VIDEOGRAPHY

Chris Brown

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Dear friends,

Thank you Rev. Linzi, the congregation at St. Mark's, and Michael's friends, for giving me this opportunity. I am Bernadette, the wife of Gehan and stepmother to Michael, who is such a strength to me during this time.

As husband and wife, Gehan and I had our differences and disagreements. Yet our motto was to never let the sun go down on us (Ephesians 4:26-27: "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry"), and it worked perfectly during the many years that we spent together. That time of my life was just fabulous.

Since his demise, though, I am still recovering from my loss (with a long way to go). I pray that 2 Corinthians 1: 4 — "who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" — will come to pass in my life.

*Thank you for your prayers and concern,
I leave you now with my love & blessings.*

Bernadette



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