



SAINT FRANCIS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN

# *Morning Prayer*

*The Season after the Epiphany*

*Week of Epiphany 4A*

January 31, 2023

Commemoration Marcella of Rome

10:15 a.m.

1205 Pine Avenue - San Jose, CA 95125  
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## ~Morning Prayer, Rite II~

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When 2 people are reading: READER 1: Plain Text Reader 2: *Italics* Both: **Bold**

You are invited to begin the service by lighting a candle.

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*Officiant:* I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

### Invitatory and Psalter

#### *Opening Acclamation*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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

#### *Invitatory Psalm (95:1-7)*

*Officiant and People*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

*let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.*

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving;

*and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.*

For you are a great God;

*you are great above all gods.*

In your hand are the caverns of the earth;

*and the heights of the hills are yours also.*

The sea is yours, for you made it,

and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For you are our God,

and we are the people of your pasture, and the sheep of your hand.

**Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!**

#### *The Psalm or Psalms Appointed*

Psalm 62

1 For God alone my soul in silence waits; \* from God comes my salvation.

2 God alone is my rock and my salvation, \* my stronghold, so that I shall not be greatly shaken.

3 How long will you assail me to crush me, all of you together, \*

as if you were a leaning fence, a toppling wall?  
 4 *They seek only to bring me down from my place of honor; \* lies are their chief delight.*  
 5 They bless with their lips, \* but in their hearts they curse.  
 6 *For God alone my soul in silence waits; \* truly, my hope is in God.*  
 7 God alone is my rock and my salvation, \* my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.  
 8 *In God is my safety and my honor; \* God is my strong rock and my refuge.*  
 9 Put your trust in God always, O people, \* pour out your hearts before God, who is our refuge.  
 10 *Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, \* even those of low estate cannot be trusted.*  
 11 On the scales they are lighter than a breath, \* all of them together.  
 12 *Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; \**  
*though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.*  
 13 God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, \* that power belongs to God.  
 14 **Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, \* for you repay all people according to their deeds.**  
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **The Lessons**

### **First Reading:** *Isaiah 52:1-12*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion! Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for the uncircumcised and the unclean shall enter you no more. Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter Zion! For thus says the LORD: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money. For thus says the Lord GOD: Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause. Now therefore what am I doing here, says the LORD, seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says the LORD, and continually, all day long, my name is despised. Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the LORD. For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight; for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Canticle B:** *Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16, 20b-22*

*A Song of Pilgrimage*

Before I ventured forth, even while I was very young, \*  
 I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.  
 In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, \* and I will seek her to the end.  
 From first blossom to early fruit, \* she has been the delight of my heart.  
 My foot has kept firmly to the true path, \* diligently from my youth have I pursued her.  
 I inclined my ear a little and received her; \*  
 I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.  
 To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, \*  
 for I have resolved to live according to her way.  
 From the beginning I gained courage from her, \* therefore I will not be forsaken.  
 In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, \*  
 therefore have I gained a good possession.  
 As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language,\*  
 and with it will I offer praise to God.

**Second Reading:** *Mark 8:1-10*

*A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.*

*In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way—and some of them have come from a great distance." His disciples replied, "How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?" He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven." Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be distributed. They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Now there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Canticle M:** *1 Peter 1:3-4, 18-21*

*A Song of Faith*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, \*  
 by divine mercy we have a new birth into a living hope;  
 Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, \*  
 we have an inheritance that is imperishable in heaven.  
 The ransom that was paid to free us \* was not paid in silver or gold,  
 But in the precious blood of Christ, \* the Lamb without spot or stain.  
**God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory \***  
**so that we might have faith and hope in God.**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People*

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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**

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

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**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.**

### *The Suffrages*

*The officiant recites the versicle (V), the people respond (R)*

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. **We praise your Name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. **For we put our trust in you.**

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

### *Collect for the Day: Marcella of Rome, Monastic and Scholar*

Il O God, who satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry with good things: Grant that we, like your servant Marcella, may hunger and thirst after you more than the vain pomp and glory of the world and delight in your word more than all manner of riches. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and resigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### *Collect for Peace*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving*

Please add your own intercessions, supplications and thanksgivings here. This may include prayers from the previous Sunday bulletin.

### *Collect for the Mission of the Church*

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

### *The General Thanksgiving*

*Officiant 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*

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.***

## **The Dismissal**

*Reader* Let us bless the Lord.

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

*Officiant:*

God's blessing be with us,  
Christ's peace be with us,  
the Spirit's outpouring be with us,  
now and always. ***Amen.***

## Biographical information

### MARCELLA OF ROME, MONASTIC AND SCHOLAR, 410

**Marcella** (325–410) is known primarily for her role in the founding of monasticism. After the death of her husband, she commenced a life of abstinence and many other women in Rome at the time



followed suit. Growing up in Rome, Marcella was influenced by her pious mother, Albina, an educated woman of wealth and benevolence. Marcella's wealth and beauty placed her at the center of fashionable Roman society. She married young, to a wealthy aristocrat, but seven months later he died. After her husband's early death, Marcella decided to devote the rest of her life to charity, prayer, and mortification of the flesh and was convinced that God was directing her to a life of poverty and service. She left behind her fashionable dresses for a coarse brown garment and abandoned her usual

extravagant hair styling and makeup. Along with other women, Marcella formed a community known as the brown dress society, spending their time praying, singing, reading the Bible, and serving the needy. Her palatial home became a refuge for weary pilgrims and for the poor.

Summoned by Pope Damasus I (who arranged lodging at Marcella's hospitality house), Jerome arrived in Rome in 382. It was an exhilarating time for Marcella, a woman of letters who had immersed herself in both Greek and Hebrew, to be entertaining one of the great minds of the age. Jerome spent the next three years in what he called her "domestic church," translating the Bible into Latin. She learned under his teaching even as she critiqued his translation. He spoke and wrote of her Christian devotion and scholarship. Indeed, his admiration of Marcella was unbounded, not only for her intellectual acumen but also for her deference to men who might be threatened by her vast store of knowledge.

Most of what we know about Marcella is from the letters of Jerome, most famously his letter 127 to Principia. It was written on the occasion of Marcella's death, paying tribute to her life and consoling her beloved student.

Source: *Satucket Lectionary*, [satucket.com](http://satucket.com)

Image: *Marcella pleads with Visigoths while Principia Prays*, Diodore Rahoult, Italy, 1886.