

❖ ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, SAN DIEGO ❖

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (PROPER 27)

NOVEMBER 11, 2007 AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

*OFFICIANT:* THE RIGHT REVEREND JAMES R. MATHES

*PREACHER:* CHAPLAIN (MAJ) ROBERT BLESSING, C.A.N.G

*CHOIRS:* THE ST CECILIA CHOIR OF GIRLS AND MEN

*and* THE CATHEDRAL CHORISTERS OF BOYS AND MEN

*ORGANIST:* GABRIEL ARREGUI

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## ARMED FORCES EVENSONG

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◆ *Hymns may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982.*

◆ *Please stand at the tolling of the bell as the Color Guard, Choir and Clergy enter in procession.*

HYMN 718

*National Hymn*

OPENING SENTENCE

PRECES AND RESPONSES (*choir*)

*John Reading (1685-1764)*

Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the

beginning, is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.

Officiant: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

◆ *Please be seated.*

PSALM 34:1-9 *Benedicam Dominum (choir)*

*Chant: William Boyce (1711 – 1779)*

*The text of the Psalm in contemporary language may be found  
on page 627 of the Book of Common Prayer.*

FIRST READING *Ecclesiasticus 51:13-22*

*Lector: Capt. Matt Brown, U.S.N.*

*The first reading is taken from the Old Testament which declares that the history of  
Israel, and of the whole world, is guided by God.*

◆ *Please stand*

MAGNIFICAT - *St Paul's Service (choir)*

*Stephen Sturk, Composer-in-Residence (b. 1950)*

*The Magnificat is Mary's song of thanksgiving as she responds to the  
declaration that the child she is to bear will fulfill the promises  
of the Old Testament.*

**M**y soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my  
Savior.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm, he hath scattered the  
proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted  
the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he  
hath sent empty away,

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham, and his  
seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

◆ *Please be seated*

SECOND READING    *Luke 14:12-24*

*Lector: The Rev. Babs M. Meairs, M.Div., M.A., B.C.C.*

*The second reading is taken from the New Testament which tells  
of the life and teaching of Jesus and the witness of the early church.*

*It also shows the meaning of Christ for our life today.*

◆ *Please stand*

NUNC DIMITTIS - *St Paul's Service (choir)*

*Stephen Sturk*

*The Nunc Dimittis is the song of Simeon who, before he dies,  
sees the infant Jesus and holds him in his arms.*

**L**ord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

*The Creed grew from statements of belief made by the first Christians at their baptism.*

*The church continues to confess its faith in the Holy Trinity –  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.*

◆ *The Creed is monotoned or spoken by all.*

**I** believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of  
God the Father almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and  
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### SALUTATION

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

#### THE LESSER LITANY (*choir*)

*John Reading*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

♦ *Sung by the choir, or by all on a monotone.*

**O**ur 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 (*choir*)

*John Reading*

Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant: O Lord, save the State.

Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call  
upon thee.

Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant: O Lord, save thy people.

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth  
for us, but only thou, O God.

Officiant: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## THE COLLECTS

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us a place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise thee in that City of which he is the light; and where he liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Almighty God, we commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with thy heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of thy abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love; so guide and inspire, we pray thee, the work of all who seek thy kingdom, that the nations may find their security not in force of arms but in that perfect love which casteth out fear, and in that fellowship revealed to us by thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## HYMN 608

*Melita*

◆ *Please be seated at the introduction of the Address.*

## THE ADDRESS

*The Rev. Robert Blessing*

## AT THE OFFERING, ANTHEM

*Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)*

They that go down to the sea in ships; and occupy their business in great waters; these men see the works of the Lord: and his wonders in the deep. For at his word the stormy wind ariseth: which lifteth up the waves thereof. They are carried up to the heaven, and down again to the deep: their soul melteth away because of the trouble. They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man: and are at their wits' end. So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble: He delivereth them out of their distress. For he maketh the storm to cease: so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they are at rest: and so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be.

*(text: Psalm 107:23-30)*

*During the anthem, an offering to help sustain the Cathedral  
and its programs will be collected.*

◆ *Please Stand*

## CLOSING PRAYERS AND DISMISSAL

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. *Amen.*

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

## THE BLESSING

HYMN *Battle Hymn of the Republic*

*arr. Peter Wilhousky*

*The choir sings the verses below. The congregation is invited to sing the final two refrains in **bold type** below:*

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the  
coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where  
the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of  
His terrible, swift sword;  
His truth is marching on!  
*Glory! Glory! Halleluja! His truth is  
marching on!*

I have seen Him in the watchfires of a  
hundred circling camps;  
They have builded Him an altar in the  
evening dews and damps;  
I can read His righteous sentence in the  
dim and flaring lamps,  
His truth is marching on! *Refrain*

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was  
born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that  
transfigures you and me:  
As He died to make men holy,  
Let us die to make men free,  
While God is marching on!

***Glory! Glory! Halleluja!***

***Glory! Glory!***

***Halleluja!***

***Glory! Glory!***

***Halleluja!***

***His truth is marching on!***

***(refrain sung twice)***

◆ *Please remain standing as the Color Guard, Choir and Clergy leave in procession.*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

◆ *A Reception follows in the Great Hall.*

*Our thanks to those who donated flags:  
Andrew Brooks, Anna Curren, Brooks Mason, Don Mitchell*

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## PARTICIPANTS

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**Officiant:** *The Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes, Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego*

**Preacher:** *Chaplain (MAJ) Robert Blessing, C.A.N.G*

**Dean:** *The Very Rev. Scott E. Richardson*

**Lectors:** *Capt. Matt Brown, U.S.N.*

*The Rev. Babs M. Meairs, M.Div., M.A., B.C.C.*

**Canon for Spiritual Formation:** *The Rev. Canon Allisyn Thomas*

**Color Guard: USD NROTC:** *MIDN 4/c Butler; MIDN 4/c Leonard; MIDN 4/c Dailey; MIDN 4/c Green; MIDN 4/c Gemelli*

**USCG San Diego:** *Joshua Lamborn, (PO3)*

**CSSM/SDSU AFROTC:** *C/Maj McDaniel-Brooks*

**Head Verger:** *Canon Brooks Mason; Servers: Crucifer: Dan*

*McMillan; Vergers: Donald Mitchell, Frank Palms; Banners: Reed*

*Bennett, Hannah Miller; Canon for Music: Martin Green; Organist:*

*Gabriel Arrequi.*

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## **A BIOGRAPHY OF THIS EVENING'S SPEAKER, CHAPLAIN (MAJ) ROBERT BLESSING, USAR**

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Chaplain Robert Blessing entered the US Army in 1993, after 7 years of ministry. After completing initial training in Fort Lewis, he was in the Army Reserve until he joined active duty in 1995 and served in Georgia, Korea and Hawaii. Upon completion of active he served as Rector of St. Michaels and all Angels in Longview Texas and then after two years was called up to Active Duty for Homeland defense. Upon returning he became assistant for one year at Good Samaritan until he was called up with the 1-184<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Air Assault) California Army National Guard. He was assigned to this unit for 18 months, assuming duty as Chaplain serving in Baghdad Iraq. His unit lost 20 KIA and over 100 WIA. In 2006, Chaplain Blessing was assigned to 224<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Bde supervising 8 chaplain candidates and supporting 3000 troops for religious coverage. In addition to his regular reserve duties, Blessing has accepted numerous temporary assignments.

A native of Seattle, Washington, Chaplain Blessing graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington and a Master of Divinity from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA. Blessing is also a graduate of the Army's Chaplains School. Chaplain Blessing is married with two children.

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## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF ARMED FORCES EVENSONG**

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Armed Forces Evensong is a service that honors and lifts up through prayer and sacred music the diverse military vocations of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in the San Diego area. Armed Forces Evensong is an annual event held at St. Paul's Cathedral that provides the civilian and military population of San Diego with the opportunity to remember the sacrifices of all veterans, especially those who have given their lives in the service of their country. Tonight marks the Fifteenth Anniversary of the establishment of this important service.

As a Cathedral for the city of San Diego, the clergy and people of St. Paul's welcome each of you to this special service regardless of your religious affiliation or where you might be currently in your own religious pilgrimage.

It is our hope that tonight in recognizing and giving thanks for the sacrifices of so many, that we may with one voice reaffirm the precious gifts of the one God who provides us as a nation with the truly sacred gifts of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.