

A Liturgy of the Word Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Date : 3 September 2023

The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

Processional Hymn

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.
Of his deliv'rance I will boast,
till all that are distressed,
from my example comfort take
and lay their griefs to rest.

O magnify the LORD with me,
exalt his holy name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.
The hosts of God encamp around
the dwellings of the just;
deliv'rance he affords to all
who in his promise trust.

O taste and see that he is good;
experience will decide
how blest are they, and only they
who in the LORD confide.
Fear him, you saints, and you will then
have nothing else to fear;
make serving him your sole delight,
your wants shall be his care.

Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to God;
Tell of God's wonderful works

Glory in God's holy name
Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Gathering Prayer

Creator of heaven and earth, you called to your servant Moses out of the burning bush. As we meet remotely today, may you sanctify the ground on which we stand that we too would recognise we stand in a holy place; so may we offer you our praise and worship. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for Purity

**Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known
and from whom 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**

The Penitence

Beloved, never avenge yourselves,
but leave room for the wrath of God;
so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Let us confess the times we have allowed
our anger to drive God's love from our hearts:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father
in penitence we confess
that we have sinned against you
through our own fault
in thought, word, and deed
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.**

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

Holy God,
in love you gave your only-begotten Son to save the world:
empower us to follow the example of his obedience
that we will take up our cross and follow him;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Word of God

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45
Romans 12:9-21

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

The Sermon

The Revd Matthew Wright

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the words
of 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,
who was conceived by 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 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Through these prayers we come with openness to express our concerns for the Church and the world, to the God of compassion and gracious understanding.

Everlasting God, whenever we start to get offended by your generosity or open-mindedness, give us the grace to repent and join your rejoicing. Guard the Church against self-righteousness and all rules and limits which you would not own, but keep always before us the rule of love. We pray for our upcoming Diocesan Synod that, in a structured and orderly way, it would implement decisions for the benefit and well-being of our diocese.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, increase in us love not only for the victims but for the perpetrators of evil and violence in our world; for all governments which run on corruption and fear. We pray for a change of heart and attitude, an awakening to a better way of living, and the courage to reject wrong principles. We thank-you for the successful BRICS summit recently held in Sandton and we pray this body may work towards greater prosperity and economic empowerment for all who live in these countries.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Father God, may the closeness we enjoy with our brothers and sisters never make us exclusive, shutting others out, but make us always inclusive, welcoming others. Encourage us in outgoing hospitality and keep us from becoming possessive with those we love. We pray that St Michael's may be a loving and accepting community to all who come to our doors. We pray too that our 70th anniversary may be a celebration of our warmth and diversity.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we know the pressures of our modern world are sometimes too much for people to bear. Help those who feel overwhelmed to turn to you in prayer. Be to them a rock of support and an anchor in times of trouble. We pray for all who are vulnerable and unable to cope with the demands of life, for alcoholics, drug addicts and all who are struggling with issues of mental wellbeing. We pray especially for our young people, who face unique and enormous pressures. Finally, we pray for those dedicated to helping such people. Fill them with your compassion and love.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all those in need of your healing, whether in body, mind or spirit. May your hand of peace be upon them and may you be with those who care for them. We pray especially for... We pray too for those of our friends and family, or those known to us, who we have lost recently. We commit into your hands the souls of those whose year's mind occurs this week. May your peace and comfort be with all who mourn.
(add names of the recently departed or on Anniversary list)

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, thank you for helping us to pray; deepen our love for you, each other, and ourselves, so that as we pray through this coming week, we may do it with your heart of compassion.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Offering

Your Word reminds us Lord that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Send workers to reap the bounty

of your harvest; may they reap not only the material resources needed, but the souls too, to build your kingdom. Accept these, our first fruit offerings, toward this end. May they be a blessing to all who benefit from them. In the name of God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen**

Final Hymn

**He who would valiant be
'gainst all disaster,
let him in constancy
follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.**

**Whoso beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound -
his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay high might,
though he with giants fight;
he will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.**

**Since, Lord, thou dost defend
us with thy Spirit,
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
Ill fear not what men say,
Ill labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.**

Author: John Bunyan, 1628-1688

Final Blessing

Finally, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be with you and those you love, now and always.

Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

E.F.T

St Michael's Church Bank
 Standard Bank (051001)
 Account Number: 000 176 397
 Account Name: Bryanston St Michael

SNAP SCAN



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