

A Liturgy of the Word Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Date : 17 September 2023

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

Processional Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Author: Henry Francis Lyte

Call to Worship

Saints of God, let us recall God's faithfulness toward us
God's steadfast love to our forefathers

Praise be to God, who does not forsake his faithful
Praise be to God, who leads us to a broad and pleasant place

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Gathering Prayer

Sovereign Lord of time and space, you delivered your people
through the waters of the red sea and set their feet upon dry ground.
Help us to heed your call and be attentive to your leading

that we too may come to the place you have destined us to be in.
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

If any are hearers of the word and not doers,
they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;
for they look at themselves and, on going away,
immediately forget what they were like.
But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty,
and persevere, being not hearers who forget
but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

*Let us confess our sins together and the times
we have failed to act upon God's word:*

**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 love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Forgiving God,
your mercy endures forever:
make us know the extent to which we are forgiven,
that by your grace we will become forgiving people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

The Word of God

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-12

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

The Sermon

The Revd Sharmain James

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the words
of the Baptismal Creed

**I believe and trust in God the Father
who made the world.**

**I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ
Who redeemed humankind.**

**I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God.**

**I believe and trust in one God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

This dedicated giving Sunday, let us commit not only our resources to God, but ourselves anew, that God would use us to fulfil his will in this place.

We thank you, Creator God, for the resources of the earth. We thank you for the marvellous diversity of your creation; that you have ordered things so well that your creation wants for nothing. We though have not fulfilled our mandate as stewards of your creation. Motivated by selfish gain we have upset its balance. As stewards of the earth, we rededicate ourselves to you, asking for the conviction, courage and wisdom to live on the earth in sustainable and life-giving ways.

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

God of this beautiful land, we commit all who live in it into your hands. Once more, you provision us with more than we need. We however have failed in fair allocation of your provision. We pray for our president and his cabinet. We pray for all government ministers, ministers of parliament and ward councillors. May those called to govern your people do so with uprightness and integrity. Help public, private and non-government sectors to work together to foster a more just South Africa for all.

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

As we near our 70th anniversary, may this milestone give us opportunity to realign and rededicate ourselves to your purposes. Gracious Father, we give you great thanks for what you have blessed us with – material resources as well as parishioners of great talent, ability and a willingness to serve. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may continue to be built up as the Body Christ and, in turn, build your kingdom in this place.

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

We continue to pray for our diocese, the Diocese of Johannesburg. We pray too for Bishop Steve and the diocesan staff as they to prepare for the upcoming Synod. Grant us a new vision on how the resources at the disposal of the diocese may be used to equip each parish for the work of God. May you continue to raise up clergy who will serve your people and be faithful shepherds of your flock throughout our diocese.

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

Even as we seek to rededicate ourselves to you, we are mindful that part of our stewardship involves the raising up of future generations who will continue to do your work, Lord. We therefore pray for our young peoples' ministry – for Junior and Teen Church. We pray especially for our confirmands who will be confirmed next month. May your gracious hand be upon them and, through the sacrament of confirmation, may your Spirit be poured out upon them that they would grow up in love of you.

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

Merciful Lord, we pray for all who are sick in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those in need of healing, and those in need of your comfort and consolation. May you lead them and guide them toward your healing and salvation. May you use the medical care they receive, attention from doctors, therapy and counselling as conduits of your healing power. We pray especially for...

God of all mercies, look with pity on those who are mourning loved ones. Grant them the assurance that their loved ones are at peace and grant them healing from their pain and loss. Help them to surrender their grief to you, that you would use it to shape them and mould them into the people you have called them to be. We pray especially for those whose year's mind occurs this week...

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

Heavenly Father, we know that you are a faithful God who hears our prayers and knows our needs. Answer these prayers, made in concert with the universal Church, as is best for each of us. In the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Prayer over the offering:

God of beauty and bounty: we offer these gifts as tokens of our dedication and gratitude to you, God and Father of all. Where they are able, may the enrich the lives of those in need and may the empower the work of ministry for your kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen**

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

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
 So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
 and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord,
 Let the earth hear his voice!
 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
 Let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
 and give him the glory, great things he has done!**

**Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
 and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
 but purer and higher and greater will be
 our joy and our wonder, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]**

Author: Fanny Crosby

Final Blessing

I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven
 and will give to your offspring all these lands.
 And in your offspring all the nations of the earth
 shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice
 and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes,
 and my laws. Go now and be a blessing to the earth
 which you inhabit and the people you dwell amongst.
 In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
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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