

A Liturgy of the Word First Sunday in Lent

Date : 26 February 2023

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

Hymn



Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.

Author: Isaac Williams

Call to Worship



As we enter Lent's wilderness, let us go with confidence.
Though we may be among wild beasts, God's angels wait on us.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you

Gathering prayer:

Lord over trial and temptation as we commit our Lenten journeys to you,
remind us of your redeeming love; may you strip from us all
that is accidental to who we are in you; may we be quick to offer
a helping hand to our sisters and brothers who struggle
to enter this Lenten period; and may we all emerge in forty days
more closely conformed to the image of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

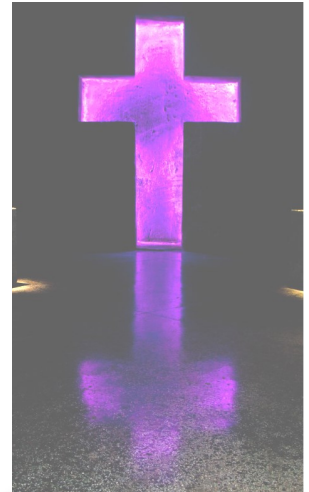
The Penitence



Together let us seek God's grace and mercy.

For our failure to love as you have commanded us
Lord have mercy

For our impatience with our fellow human beings
Lord have mercy



For our sense of entitlement over those we perceive to be less important

Lord have mercy

For our indifference to the suffering of God's creation

Lord have mercy

For our lack of compassion with our selves and with our neighbour

Lord have mercy

Rend your hearts and not your garments, and return to the Lord your God:
for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Collect for Purity



**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 you to himself,
and cleanse you from all our sins
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect



God of mercy,
Jesus found a sure defence in your word:
strengthen us to persevere faithfully
as we confront the temptations of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Word of God



Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

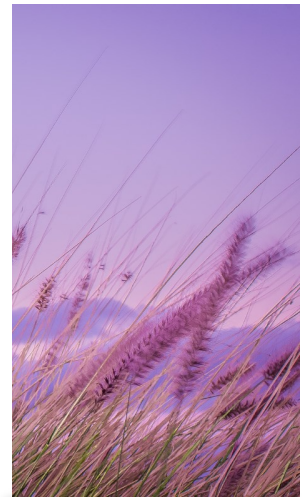
Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Reading



Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11



The Sermon



The Revd David Edwards

Affirmation of Faith



**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



Together with the Church universal, let us intercede for God's world and God's people.

This Lent protect us, Lord, from the pitfall of gluttony, from being overly comforted and at ease with the resources and luxuries we have amassed for ourselves. Free us from being satiated by material goods and, by your grace, help us to give more freely of ourselves, our time and our resources.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

Save us, gracious Father, from addiction to acclaim and affirmation. May we find our true worth and meaning in you. And, if we excel in what we do, help us maintain a spirit of modesty and humility as we put to work, for your kingdom and for the good of others, the gifts, talents and abilities you have blessed us with.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

We pray for all who will pass away this Lent. We commit into your hands those who are currently grieving the loss of loved ones. May your grace and mercy be upon them. We pray too for all who are suffering or are ill at this time. May you touch them with your healing hand and restore them to wholeness in mind, body and spirit.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

We pray for the worldwide Anglican communion, for our own diocese and for Steve, our Bishop. In these challenging and changing times, and during this Lent, may you renew the Church's call and commission and enable and empower it to carry out the work of Christ's Body in the world.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

We give you thanks for our own parish of St Michael's as we recall how blessed we are as a parish. Thank-you Lord, for the resources you have placed at our disposal, for the many expertise and abilities represented throughout our congregation. Help us to use these effectively for the building of your kingdom in this place.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

In the context of our vestry meeting, we commit into your hands our newly elected parish councillors and church wardens. We thank you for the willingness of your faithful servants to minister to the needs of your people. May your anointing be upon them, in the capacity of their various portfolios, to fulfil the mandates you have entrusted to them.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

Father, as we commit ourselves and our loved ones into your care and keeping, we know that your blessing and protection remain upon us. Hear and accept all our prayers, those said aloud and in the silence of our hearts, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Prayer for Offering 

Loving God, we offer these gifts and the service of our lives praying that they are acceptable to you. May they be evidence of our desire to follow Jesus, and of our turning away from all that hinders our discipleship. Bless us and all that we do that we may be a blessing to you and to our world. In Jesus' name, 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 

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.**

Author: William Williams; Peter Williams (transl.)



Final Blessing



This Lent may you proceed on your wilderness journey following the footsteps of Christ. Know that where Christ has gone before, you shall not fail or fall. And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you, now and forever.

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.

Follow us



Keep connected on our various social media platforms with daily prayers, motivations and much more.

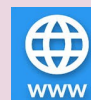
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