



# *A Liturgy of the Word Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost*

*Date: 22 October 2023*

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

## *Processional Hymn*

**Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol:  
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.**

**God ruleth on high, almighty to save;  
and still he is nigh: his presence we have;  
the great congregation his triumph shall sing;  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.**

**Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!  
let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore and give him his right:  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
and honour and blessing with angels above,  
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.**

*Author: Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

## *Call to Worship*

We gather today to remember and  
proclaim that we are God's people.  
**We are God's people! God's presence is among us!**

Like Moses, we seek an encounter with God's goodness.  
**God, show us your goodness that we  
may glorify you in all that we do.**

God's goodness passes by us every day  
in the faces of our neighbours.  
**God, help us notice your goodness  
in everything and everyone that we meet.**

When we notice God's goodness all around us,  
we recognize this truth: all things are God's.  
**Let us give to God the things that are God's!**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also, with you.**

## *Gathering Prayer*

Loving God, like Moses in the wilderness, we want to see you.  
We want assurance of your presence and your guidance.  
But we do not see your face. Instead, we listen for you in scripture.  
We open our hearts to you in your Word proclaimed.  
We give thanks for your gracious, faithful presence in our hearts  
and among us. Bless us, as we listen for you. 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*

Sin tricks and traps us a hundred times a day.  
So we turn to God, whose business is freedom.  
Trusting that God will free us from our sin and deliver us  
to safety, let us confess our sins with courage and hope.

**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*

Hear the good news: If we confess our sins,  
God who is faithful and just will forgive us  
our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **Amen**

## *The Collect*

Holy God, you govern all things in heaven and on earth:  
enable us to be obedient to your authority  
that serving you in the world  
we will be faithful witnesses of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

## *The Word of God*

Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10



## *Gospel Reading*

Matthew 22:15-22

## *The Sermon*

The Revd Margaret Place

## *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*

God, we know that you see everything that happens in this world; nothing we pray about is news to you. Yet still we pray, asking that your peace and wisdom rest on us, and your presence transform our lives.

We pray for the Church, both locally and globally. We intercede for church leaders, that they may be strengthened and encouraged in their ministry. We pray for Bishop Steve and for your continual blessings on him to do your work in your kingdom. As we prepare for our Diocesan synod pour your Spirit upon our Diocese, and grant us a new vision of Your glory, A new experience of Your power, A new faithfulness to Your word, And a new consecration to Your service, So that Your love may grow among us, And Your kingdom come:

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

St. Paul expressed deep gratitude to God for the faith, steadfast hope, and firm conviction of the community at Thessalonica. We pray for your anointing upon all those who serve in the various ministry portfolios in our parish. We pray for a spirit of joy and unity to reign throughout our church family. We pray for strong commitments to serve in various volunteer ministries in our church. We pray for enthusiastic participation in worship and praise. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those in public office, especially those who are entrusted with the administration of public finances, that they may allocate the resources available wisely, motivated by a commitment to the common good and a concern for all those who are poor and marginalised. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**



Father, your unfailing Word says that we must call upon You in the day of trouble. We pray for our own country, South Africa. We pray for people who have lost loved ones, farmland, property, etc, in the devastating fires. For families of the victims of gangs, gun violence, and drugs. We pray for towns and cities impacted by prolonged water shortages. We pray for commuters struggling due to price hikes for daily travel. Renew our country by the light of your gospel. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who seek your face in times of sickness and ill-health – who long to feel your healing presence. We pray especially for all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Bring peace to those who are ill and strengthen those who care for them. Be beside all those who give their time to tend to the needs of others. We pray for those on our prayer list. We ask that you surround them and us with your unfailing love. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly father, we remember all those that we have loved who are now in your tender care. Help us to keep the good memories of our time together and allow our memories to be a comfort for us. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

God, there is much we have forgotten to pray for today, yet we know that nothing escapes your notice. Direct our eyes this week, we pray, that we might come to know your heart more fully. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

*Prayer for Offering*

*Let us thank God for the gifts given to support our church.*  
Gracious God, you stamped your love upon this world forever when you chose to enter it in Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving for such love, we offer these gifts and the witness of our lives as we dedicate ourselves anew to making your love visible through all we say and do in Jesus' name and in the power of your Spirit. Amen

*The Lord's Prayer*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**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*

**1 Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.**



**2 O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.**

**3 All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns,  
with them in highest heaven  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.**

*Author: Martin Rinkart (1586-1949)*

*Final Blessing*

The glory of the Lord is all around you,  
here in this sanctuary,  
but it will glimmer also in your house  
in the office in the car at the grocery store  
at the gym in the doctor's office:  
everywhere the children of God go,  
so does the image of God.  
And the blessing of God, Father,  
Son, and Holy Spirit be with you all. **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**  


*Follow us*

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

**Click icon to go to the relevant page.**

**Website**  **Facebook**  **YouTube** 