



A Liturgy of the Word Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost
Date : 29 October 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

The Mighty One has done great things for me; holy is his name
**He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts**

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones; he has lifted up the lowly
He has filled the hungry with good things; while the rich he has sent away empty

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Gathering Prayer

Loving God, it is through you that all things hold together.
As we gather today, in person and by the wonders of technology,
help us to see the ways you are at work in the world.
Draw us closer to you so that we may see each other as you see us.
Encourage us to look not only to our own interests but to those
of others, as we continue our journeys of faith in these strange,
unprecedented times; in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.
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

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand
of the throne of God.

Let us confess our sins,
forsaking that which impedes our journeys of faith:

**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.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

The Collect

Almighty God,
your Son has shown us how to love one another:
let our love for you overflow into joyful service
and be a healing witness to our neighbours;
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

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:34-46

The Sermon

The Revd Sharmain James

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.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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

Let us approach the throne of grace with hearts and hands held out to God.

Loving God, help us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dearly as our own. Help us to love you with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our minds and to love our neighbours as ourselves. With these commandments before us we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church here at St Michael's and throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Everlasting God, you made a covenant with our ancestors and pledged them descendants more numerous than the stars. Grant that all people may share in the blessings of your covenant, accomplished through the death and resurrection of your Son and sealed by the gift of your Spirit. As we near the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, keep us mindful of those who have gone before us in the faith and may we look to them for inspiration.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer**



Creator God, we pray for the peoples of the world: those experiencing suffering or distress of any kind. We pray that in situations of oppression, conflict and injustice, your justice would roll down like a river. Convict the leaders of all nations to rule not on behalf of their own interests, or those of the wealthy and powerful, but to seek to create a better world for all.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we thank you for our families and friends and all those who enrich our lives. We thank you for our teachers and healthcare workers, for public servants, for those in the service and hospitality industry, and all who work to improve the lives of others. We thank you for this community of faith. Help us to lead Spirit-filled lives, to seek opportunity to be replenished and revived by you, so that we in turn would be a blessing to everyone we encounter.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

We continue to pray for our diocese and Bishop Steve, our diocesan Bishop. We pray that the resolutions passed at our Diocesan Synod held this weekend would bear fruit for our diocese in time to come. We pray too for our Archbishop, Thabo Makgoba, as well as for the Anglican Communion and Archbishop, Justin Welby.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Holy God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has loosened our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift before you those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. We pray especially for... May your hand of healing be upon them, and may you grant them peace in their distress.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

God of all consolation, your Son Jesus was moved to tears at the grave of his friend Lazarus. Look with compassion on those bereaved and grieving the loss of loved ones; give to their troubled hearts the light of hope and strengthen in us all the gift of faith, in Jesus Christ our Lord. We remember especially before you those whose year's mind occurs this week.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, as we prepare to start a new week, keep us mindful of you at all times. Help us so to order our lives, our priorities and our goals that all would be accomplished according to your will.

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

Prayer for Offering

Almighty God, though you tasked your servant Moses to bring your people to the promised land, you did not allow him to enter or to realise the fruits of his labour. Help us, likewise to labour not for our own benefit, but especially for that of successive generations, that they may continue to give you glory and praise your name.

Bless now our tithes and offerings, that they may be used for the growth and work of your kingdom.

In the name of Jesus Christ. **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

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1930)



Final Blessing

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and will not fail you. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you 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
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 Account Name: Bryanston St Michael

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