



A Liturgy of the Word Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Date : 12 November 2023

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

Processional Hymn

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, be Thou my true Word;
be Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord;
be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son,
be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might;
be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r,
O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be Thou my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Author: Ancient Irish, ca. 700 AD

Call to Worship

The Lord shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Gathering prayer: *(Let us pray)*

God of infinite love and mercy, at this time of year
when we remember those who have fallen in battle,
all those whose lives were unalterably changed by the course of war;
we weep and lament for the wars of past and present,
and all current conflicts plaguing our planet.
Convict us of the futility of war and help to pursue ways of peace,
based on the recognition of the sovereign dignity
of every human; in the name 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

Therefore I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'They always go astray in their hearts, and they do not know my ways.' And in my anger I swore, 'They will not enter my rest.' Let us take care, that none of us has an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But let us exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," so that none of us may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Let us confess our sins together:

**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 mercy and love,
make known to you his forgiveness and salvation,
may he cleanse, restore, and revive you;
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

The Collect

Immanent God,
you call us to be vigilant:
may we live each day with a clear intention to be children of light
so that when you call us forth to greet Christ,
we may follow him to eternal light;
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

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel Reading

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

The Sermon

The Revd Matthew Wright

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

Loving God, we recognise our responsibility to encourage and uphold one another and to live together in peace and love. We also recognise our needs and our human weaknesses and come to you now with our prayers and petitions.

Holy God, we pray for our church leaders, that they will be guided in their ministry by the influence of the Holy Spirit and that the Church, in the power of the Spirit, may make the Gospel understandable to people of every creed, language, and culture. We pray that the Holy Spirit of Peace may unite and reconcile the peoples and nations of the earth, bringing an end to war, hatred, and discrimination.

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

Creator God, we pray for your world, of which your Son is King. We pray for peace, reconciliation, and healing in all places of war, hatred and armed conflict. We pray that the nations of the world may be united and subject to the rule of Christ, through whom and for whom all things were created. We pray for secular authorities and those mandated by the people to rule in their interests and on their behalf. We pray especially for world leaders and those within the UN, that they would seek a speedy solution regarding the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

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



We pray for the Anglican Communion, for Archbishop Justin Welby, for our own Archbishop, Thabo Makgoba, and for our Diocesan Bishop, Steve Moreo. We pray for the Church's prophetic witness, that it may be as a city set on a hill. We give you thanks for the relative success of our recent Synod, and we pray for the newly constituted Board of Trustees, and for Bishop Steve, as together, they work for the well-being of the Diocese.

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

We pray for the community of St Michael's, Bryanston. Having recently remembered those who have gone before us in faith, and as we remember today all who have perished in armed conflict, we continue to uphold all we have known, loved, and lost along the way. We pray especially for those who have died in conflicts in our own country, those who perished in the Mfecane, the South African War, those in the First and Second World Wars, and those who died in the struggle to end apartheid.

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

In the spirit of remembrance of those we have lost, we hold up to you, all who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Grief can be so devastating, Lord, and so we commit into your hands those who are grieving, those who are commemorating a year's mind, and those who perhaps after many years, still find it difficult to move on without their loved ones. Be with them in their sorrow and grant them healing and peace.

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

Father, we know that when your Son walked this earth, the salvation he brought to your people was one that touched the hearts, minds, bodies, and souls of all he encountered. We ask your healing hand upon those who are suffering in body, mind and spirit. We commit into your hands all on our prayer chain and all who are in need of healing.

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

Gracious Father, accept these our prayers made together with the universal Church. May they be a fragrant offering and may you answer them as is best for us. In the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Prayer for Offering

Everlasting Father, thank you that you are the light of the world, guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is yours, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to you.

We recognize everything we have belongs to you.

We acknowledge that our very lives belong to you.

We now offer back to you a portion of what you have given us.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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

At the name of Jesus
ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed;

Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
thro' all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you
in its light and pow'r.

Christians, this Lord Jesus
shall return again
in his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

Author: Caroline M. Noel (1870)



Final Blessing

May the God of love fill Your heart with peace,
and send you out into the world to live and grow and flourish.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be with you and those you love,
this day 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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