



A Liturgy of the Word Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Date: 19 November 2023

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

Processional Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He come with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy and hope, like flowers,
spring in His path to birth.
before Him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow down before Him
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore Him,
his praise all people sing;
to Him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest.
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
his changeless name of love.

Author: James Montgomery (1771-1854)



Call to Worship

Come! Share the joy of the Lord!
Delight in God's goodness!

Praise God who gives each person a special gift to be nurtured and shared.
Lord, we thank you for these gifts!

Come, let us worship God who entrusts us with so much.
Lord, make us worthy of your love and trust in us.

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

Gathering Prayer

Lord – We come this morning,
at the start of another week to worship You,
our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and end.
You guided, protected, strengthened and
blessed us this past week –for which we thank You and praise You
We pause from our labours to worship You today.
Clear our minds of all the distractions
which would draw us away from you.
Prepare us to be witnesses to your power.
We offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord 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

We know that our sins are too heavy for us to carry,
too real to hide and too deep to undo.
The Apostle Paul reminds us, that God has not
destined us for wrath, but rather salvation. Therefore,
let us confess our sins to the One who is eager to save.

**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

Christ is our peace and reconciles us to God. In our confession, we are promised God's mercy and are assured that God's grace will follow us all the days of our lives. What wondrous love is this? In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The Collect

Generous God,
you endow us with gifts for the good of creation:
make us trustworthy in all things,
that we may share with Christ the work of your kingdom.
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

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25: 14-30

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

Lord, You have given us the gift of prayer, and You have invited us to bring our requests to You, for You love us, and You listen to our needs and desires. And so we pray:

For your church in this community and around the world. Heavenly Father, you call us each to different work in your kingdom, according to the gifts you have bestowed upon us. We pray especially for those you have called into ministry, to be leaders and teachers in your church. Keep your call fresh in their hearts, renewing and refreshing their spirit for the work ahead. We pray especially for the worldwide Anglican church and its leadership. We ask You to bless all bishops as they carry out the work of leading Your Church.

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

We pray for the world and its people, whom you have made one with the earth, to tend it and bring forth fruit and lasting generations. We pray for the sorrows of so many, and the anger that attacks communities and whole nations. We pray for the suffering, that their prayers and their lives may rise to you. We pray for an end to war in Israel and Palestine and Ukraine, for the protection of children and elderly, women and men caught in crossfire and those who bring aid. O God, make us people of peace; in your mercy protect us.

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

Lord, we thank you for entrusting us with talents—spiritual gifts, natural abilities, time and money. Help us invest these talents faithfully in the advancement of your Kingdom on earth. We pray for those in government and in leadership, that they may serve you, and use the gifts and resources that they have within their power for the good of all people. Remind them that they must give you an account of their stewardship of power, authority, and talents. Do not let them squander these gifts through rivalries, misuse, or neglect.

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

We pray for our own country, South Africa. We ask for your protection over all people living in impoverished areas that are ruled by violent gangs. May these areas experience a miraculous turnaround. We pray for an end to gender base violence in our country and a swift end to house robberies in all neighbourhoods. May all criminal activities be expose and dealt with.

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

We pray for those who are in their exam period at school, or University. May they work hard for completion of the gift of education that they have been offered and use it to develop their talents for the benefit of others.

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

Loving God, we bring before you those whom we know and love who are in need at this time. Give strength to the weak and hope to those patients who are recovering from surgery. We particularly remember those in our own Parish who request your healing power at this time and others known to us personally who also seek your healing hands.

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

We thank you for all those who have left this life before us, especially those who have departed recently and those whose anniversaries fall around this time. Hear us as we remember those who have died (particularly N) according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

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

So, Father, we offer all these needs with the hope that they will be granted in the name of Jesus, our Lord, and through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Prayer for Offering

Let us thank God for the gifts given to support our church.
Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance.



Multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us.
Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us
and make us good stewards as we allocate
the use of these gifts in your name.

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

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his Word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!**

Author: Timothy Dudley-Smith

Final Blessing

Go into this week,
enfolded in the rich mercy of God
nourished by the abundant love of Jesus Christ
energised by the limitless power of the Holy Spirit.
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the 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
Standard Bank (051001)
Account Number: 000 176 397
Account Name: Bryanston St Michael

SNAP SCAN



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