

A Liturgy of the Word Second Sunday in Lent

Date : 5 March 2023

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

Hymn



1 God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
now fulfil thy Church's story;
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy 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.

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

4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces
in the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not man nor thee.

Author: H. E. Fosdick (1878-1969)

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Call to Worship



Lord, we have come to lift up our eyes,
that we may see Your world in a new way.

We have come to lift up our minds
that our thoughts might be transformed by your love.

We have come to lift up our hearts
that we might be made whole by your grace.

We have come to lift up our voices in praises
that we may worship you for ever and ever.



Gathering prayer:

Heavenly Father,
You provide shelter, comfort, and hope to us.
We lift our praises to You this morning,
for Your faithfulness inspires belief in us.
Your limitless love reveals more of You to us day by day.
As we see You more, our faith increases.
Help us to grow in our faith as we meet You
in this time and place. **Amen.**

The Penitence



In the season of Lent, we are invited to consider how we live as followers of Christ – to look at our decisions and our actions straight on, to hold them up to the example of Christ, and to make amends. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the New Human be lifted up, that whoever trusts may have eternal life. (John 3.14-15)

**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



Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you:
pardon your sins and set you free from them;
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect



**God of amazing compassion
and lover of our wayward race,
You call us to be a blessing for all the world:
Keep us on this holy path,
confident in the radiant life you offer;
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 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5,13-17

Gospel Reading



John 3:1-17

The Sermon



The Revd Matthew Wright

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



As the family of Christ let us pray together:

For the worldwide church as it continues to evolve and be inclusive of all members of society in a changing world. We pray for our Archbishop Thabo, Steve our bishop our clergy, and lay leaders in the diocese of Johannesburg and in the parish of St Michaels. May we grow in our love for You and for one another, so that the world might know that You are our Lord, and we are Your people.

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Loving God thank you for this season of Lent, for the opportunity it brings for self-examination, of preparation for the passion of Holy Week, and the joy of Easter. May we walk alongside each other as we journey through Lent and



pray for one another's' needs as well as our own.

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

Heavenly Father, as we think of the world that You loved so much that You gave Your only Son, we pray for the troubled places in the world, Turkiye, trying to recover from the earthquake; Syria, already war-torn and now also devastated by a earthquake; places that are struggling to survive in the hopeless situations resulting from famine and war. We pray for all who have suffered loss of life and limb, of loved ones, of homes and possessions, of freedom and human dignity, and for refugees the world over. We pray for our world leaders in these difficult times, for journalists, and for all relief and emergency aid workers who risk their own lives to try and bring help to the victims of so much suffering.

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

Loving God, here at home we continue to pray for the pressing challenges our country is facing. We pray for our President, Cyril Ramaphosa and the leaders of our land as they seek to find solutions to restore energy security, grow the economy and jobs, building better lives, fighting corruption and making our communities safer. Give us hope of better times ahead, and grant that we might all realise our dependency upon each other for our wellbeing and prosperity, and our ultimate dependency upon you for love and guidance.

Lord In your mercy: **Hear our hear.**

We ask for you blessing on the sick and those in need in this parish, including (sick list.....) May Your Holy Spirit restore them to the fullness of life and health. We also give thanks for those on the road to recovery following illness, surgery or procedures, and for those whose only healing will come through death.

Lord In your mercy: **Hear our hear.**

As we think of all the different families that make up this community of faith, we remember those who are not with us anymore. We hold before You Father, those who have died, that they may be at rest from their labours. We give thanks for the way their lives have touched and enrich ours. Comfort those who mourn, whether the loss is recent or lingering, encourage them, comfort them, sustain them and keep them from despair by the hope of eternal life that comes through faith in You.

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

Thank You for a church that's faithful to proclaim and demonstrate Your truth with grace and compassion. Thank You for ministries that quietly change lives, for leaders who faithfully serve and for all who sacrificially give of themselves. So, with thanksgiving in our hearts, we pray all this, in Jesus' Name. AMEN

Prayer for Offering 

God of unwavering love,
you have held nothing back in your love for us,
not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love,
and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you.
As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away
from our tendency to worry that there will not be enough.
Help us to live as the people of love and abundance
you have called us to be. In Christ we pray. ([John 3:1-17](#)), Amen.

Lord's Prayer 

As Christ has taught us we are bold to pray:

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 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me**
Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see!

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

**2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love**
Chorus:

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside**
Chorus:

Author and Lyrics: Thomas O. Chisholm

Final Blessing



And now, let us run with patience the race that is before us,
looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.
May God give us his sustaining power and grant us
the strengthening presence of his Spirit in whatever
challenges await us. And the blessing of
God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you, now and always.
Amen

Dismissal




Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen





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