



A Liturgy of the Word Third Sunday after Epiphany

Date: 22 January 2022



The video of the service or the sermon can be viewed on the website, YouTube or Facebook

Introit Hymn

Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him; praise him, angels, in the height; sun and moon, rejoice before him, praise him, all ye stars and light. Praise the Lord! for he hath spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed: laws, which never shall be broken, for their guidance he hath made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious; never shall his promise fail:
God hath made his saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation; hosts on high, his power proclaim; heaven and earth and all creation, laud and magnify his name!

Praise the Lord! ye heavens adore him; Praise him angels, in the height; Sun and moon, rejoice before him; Praise him, all ye stars and light. Praise the Lord! for he has spoken; Worlds his mighty voice obeyed; Laws which never shall be broken For their guidance he hath made.

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Worship, honour, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer to thy name; Young and old, thy praise expressing, Join their Saviour to proclaim. As the saints in heaven adore thee, We would bow before thy throne; As thine angels serve before thee, So on earth thy will be done.

Introductory Words

May Christ, the true light of the world, always brighten and inspire our lives. May our faces reflect his warmth and love, and may the Lord be with you.

And also with you.





Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

Come, let us worship the God Whose light brings hope to a weary world.

The Penitence

We hear Christ's invitation: "Follow me" and we want to follow, but we also want to stay where we are. We want to receive what Jesus offers, but we also want to cling to what we already have. And so, we are stuck. Let us pause here to confess the times when we have failed to listen to the call that God puts out for us.

Let us confess our sins together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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.



"The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

The Collect

O God of new beginnings: Give us courage to turn and joyfully follow you

into new adventures of faithful service; through Jesus Christ our Light and our salvation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God now and forever. Amen

The Word of God

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27: 1, 4 - 12

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-23





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

Loving God the psalmists, ages ago, lifted their prayers to you in faithful confidence that you would hear and receive their petitions. Following their lead, we lift our petitions for the world, our communities, and our loved ones. Heavenly Father,

When Christ called his first disciples to follow him, he let them know that their primary focus would change. Instead of catching fish they would now catch people, drawing others into a relationship with you through Jesus Christ. Remind your Church continually that this is our first priority. May we always be true to our calling, fruitful in the work of leading others and drawing all those we meet to embrace the Gospel message. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord we bring before you families all over the world, especially the spiritual family of St Michael's Bryanston. Bless each and every member of our parish. Make us bearers of your life and light so that every act of worship, outreach, stewardship, study and support is centered in Christ alone.

We give thanks for Father Dave Edwards who is ministering to us during our interregnum, and we pray for his family, that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and receive Your blessings in abundance. Eternal God, you continually call your people to new tasks and set before them new opportunities. We thank you for your servants, Fr Moses and Revd Alison and for the years of ministry in your Church. As we say farewell to them today, by your Spirit grant them grace to continue your work in this new season of their life. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our world full of violence, political tension and suffering. May all corners of our world be lit by Your light in the darkness to bring freedom and hope where there is oppression and fear; recognition and respect where there is none, and in all conflicts to show the way to peace and resolution with justice and honour. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that in our homes, our places of work and our communities the light of kindness and compassion may soften harsh edges, draw people together and heal the wounds of broken relationships. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray that all those whose lives have been damaged in the past, by rejection, guilt, anxiety, pain, abuse, may be set free and find the courage to live life to the full. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

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We pray for those who have died, and those who miss them and are finding it very hard to cope with their loss. We pray for all those who have no one to pray for them and help them through that last journey. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Thank you, Father, for your presence with us and the light you shine on our path, day by day. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father, accept theses prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Offering

Gracious Father, as we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honour, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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



Gracious God, send us into the world as your disciples to join in your work of teaching and healing, and proclaiming the good news of your grace, for the sake of the transformation of the world. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**



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

Final Hymn

We have a gospel to proclaim, Good news for men in all the earth; The gospel of a Saviour's name, We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Tell of His birth at Bethlehem, Not in a royal house or hall But in a stable dark and dim: The Word made flesh, a light for all.





Tell of His death at Calvary, Hated by those He came to save; In lonely suffering on the cross For all He loved, His life He gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn: Empty the tomb, for He was free. He broke the power of death and hell That we might share His victory.

Tell of His reign at God's right hand, By all creation glorified; He sends His Spirit on His Church To live for Him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him King: Jesus is Lord of all the earth. This gospel message we proclaim: We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Hymn written by Edward J. Burns and published in 1968.



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

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