

A Liturgy of the Word Sunday after Pentecost

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

Hymn

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.



Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

We remember the compassion of Jesus who noticed the distress of his neighbours and acted to bring them healing and wholeness.

Nothing is too wonderful for God who heals and restores the distressed!

We remember the invitation the Spirit extends to us to join in God's work of compassionate community building.

Nothing is too wonderful for God who empowers us to transform strangers into community through active love.

As we worship, may we receive the promise, the compassion, and the invitation to be disciples of Christ who join in God's work of making disciples for the transformation of our community, and our world.

Because nothing is too wonderful for our God! Amen.

Let us pray

Loving God as we come together in worship,
we give thanks for this day that you have made.

As we share in scripture and silence, song and stillness,

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prayer and preaching, be present with us wherever we find ourselves.
 Receive all that we offer. Renew all that we are.
 Unite us in this time of sharing, that we might travel on with you.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 we have not lived according to God's desires for us.
 The brokenness in the world, and the sin and despair in our hearts,
 threaten to consume us as a mighty flood.
 Yet God is our hope and our firm foundation.
 Let us confess our sin before our gracious God.



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, 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.

Absolution

Hear the good news: God's steadfast love endures forever,
 and God's faithfulness is promised to all generations.
 We are justified by faith, forgiven and freed, and at peace with
 God and each other through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Collect

Holy God, Lord of the harvest,
you send your labourers to spread the gospel:
call us to this work, equip us by your Spirit
and send us to proclaim your good news;

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

Genesis 18:1-15
Psalm 116:1-2, 11-18
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8

The Sermon

Revd Sharmain James

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

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us join together to pray for the church, our nation, and for all who are in need.

Jesus says 'the harvest is rich, but the labourers are few. God of faith, send your Spirit of tender might throughout your church and to all its leaders, especially our bishops, priest, deacons, parish ministers, church councils and others who lead in the tasks of carrying out congregational ministry. May they have the wisdom and courage they need to face the challenges of our time and may they respond with the generosity and zeal of the Apostles.
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

God of goodness, you called us to welcome all as you welcome us. Grant us the gift of seeing Christ in all people and act accordingly for the common good. On this Fathering Sunday, we remember all the people who have nurtured us, especially the important men in our lives, those who have seen, not just with their eyes, but with their heart. We remember fathers who are older, but who still bear the responsibility of raising children and grandchildren. We remember fathers who mean well, but make mistakes. We remember men who, because of various circumstances, are unable to become fathers. We remember fathers who have adopted children. Nurturing God, thank you for those who have nurtured us. Open our eyes to the plight of so many fathers and mothers around the

world for whom life is difficult. Help us share your love and mercy with them.

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

God of mercy, we pray for a world that is still so far from Your good creation. We see the devastating evidence of our failure to care for the earth and everything in it. We pray especially for those who are most impacted by environmental devastation, war and lack of basic resources. We pray especially for the people of Canada, where wildfires have forced thousands of people to flee their homes. Where there is flooding, or drought bring renewal of the land.

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

God of the nations, we come before you, feeling like helpless children. We come before you as the crowd feeling like sheep without a shepherd. Grant the nation and our leaders the gift of knowing what things they ought to do and the grace and power to faithfully accomplish them. We pray for Cyril Ramaphosa and his cabinet. Help them to rely upon and to place their trust in you and your strength.

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

Jesus instructed his disciples to care for the sick, and those in special need; We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit. For all who struggle with mental illness, and addiction, and the impacts of trauma. We pray for the lonely, the hurt, and the estranged. We pray for all who live with chronic sickness or pain. Give us compassion in our relationships and encounters with others, who are fighting battles we don't know. May our prayers bring them healing and comfort.

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

God of glory, neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God. Christ Jesus, give rest to all who have died this week and uphold and sustain those bereaved by their passing.

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

Faithful God in the week that lies before us may we reflect your love in our families, our church and our community and in doing so, show everyone we meet that we are followers of Christ with a true desire to draw them into our Christian faith.

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

Loving God, we offer these prayers to you, including those that remain on our hearts, and those known only to you, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen,**

Prayer for Offering

God the giver of gifts, the one whose blessing gives life and hope, receive all that we now offer; take and use what we can give, that your will be done, in Christ's name. **Amen.**

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 Blessing

Lord, in your compassion and mercy, bless us this day.
Lord, in your authority and power, send us out this day.
Lord, in your love and strength, sustain us this day.
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

Hymn

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold the Saviour come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy!



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My gracious Master and my God,
 assist me to proclaim,
 to spread thro' all the earth abroad
 the honours of your name.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Call to Worship - Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, December 2022.

Penitence: Online Homilitecs

Be Thou My Guardian and My Guide

Written by Isaac Williams, published in 1842.
 The tune is 'Abridge' by Isaac Smith,
 Performed here by the choir of Sidney Sussex College.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFpaP-BGG4A>



Lord's Prayer

Henry Pleas, tenor
 George Mitchell Williams, organ
 Northfield Community Church; Northfield, IL
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hf635EBtq9o>

O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

written by Charles Wesley in 1739.
 The tune is 'Lyngham' by Thomas Jarman, 1803.
 It is performed by The New Irish Choir and Orchestra.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFJvBwgmK_c

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.

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