

# A Liturgy of the Word Third Sunday in Lent

Date : 12 March 2023

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

## Hymn



Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

Author: Love M. Whitcomb Willis

## Call to Worship



This Lent, hear Christ's invitation:  
"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

**And as the Scripture has said, 'Out of their heart  
will flow rivers of living water.'**

As we continue our Lenten journeys, we are called the well  
where Christ is, that we may rest and be restored.

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

As we continue our journey through the desert toward  
the promised land, let us look to the rock which is higher  
than ourselves, in which we may take refuge and from  
which we may receive living water. **Amen.**

## The Penitence



For the times we have forsaken God,  
and hewn out for ourselves broken cisterns which hold no water.

**Forgive us, dear Lord.**

For the times we have trusted in mammon and worldly things.

**Forgive us, dear Lord.**

For the times we have shunned God's image by rejecting a sister or brother.

**Forgive us, dear Lord.**

From our infirmities:

**Save us, Lord**

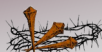
From our blindness:

**Rescue us and restore to us our sight**

From our brokenness:

**Heal us and make us whole**

*Collect for Purity*



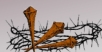
**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.**

*Absolution*



May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace,  
may he forgive and cleanse you,  
in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*The Collect*



Gracious Father,  
your Son is the source of living water:  
grant that the gift of his Spirit  
may be to us a spring of water welling up to eternal life;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*The Word of God*



Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11

## Gospel Reading



John 4:5-42

## The Sermon



The Revd Sharmain James

## Affirmation of Faith



**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



Let us take opportunity to make prayer and intercession for all those in need.

During this penitential season, as we return to God with our whole hearts, we pray for the reign of God's peace and justice. Though the world's rulers profess different faiths, or none at all, we pray that the principles of God's kingdom might be established on earth. We pray for the calming of warring nations, and for the countless innocent affected in war. We pray for a ceasing of consumptive habits which deplete our earth's resources and for a recognition and realization of what is truly valuable in the world.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We continue to pray for our own country and its government. We pray for our president and his newly appointed cabinet. We pray for an end to corruption, for just governance on behalf of the people, for the creation of jobs, the building of infrastructure, and the strengthening of the spirit of ubuntu. May we, as people who live in this beautiful country, together work towards making it more peaceful and equitable for all.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the universal Church. This Lent may we, as its members, conform more faithfully to the body of your Son. We pray for our sister churches among the Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions. We pray for the Anglican Communion, for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for our own Archbishop, Thabo, and for our Bishop, Steve. May you strengthen and sustain them as they seek to lead and shepherd your flock.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for the community of St Michael's, Bryanston. May we too, truly understand what it means to be the localised expression of the Body of your Son. You have equipped each and every member of this church with unique and diverse talents, abilities and experiences. Help us to use these effectively for the strengthening and building up of your Body in this place.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are ill or who are experiencing suffering or discomfort at this time, especially... We also lift up our ministry of intercession. Through the power of prayer, may this ministry continue to be a conduit of your healing love. We commit into your hands any we may know who have departed this earthly life, or who may do so during Lent. Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Finally, Father, wherever we find ourselves this week as individuals, whether experiencing times of trial or times of blessing, whether we have cause to celebrate or cause to mourn, whether facing difficulties at work, trying family

times, or whether we just find ourselves exhausted by life's challenges, we know, above all, that we can place our hope in you, believing that you are faithful and that you will not leave nor forsake us.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Hear our prayers, heavenly Father, in union with the universal Church. May they be pleasing to you and may you answer them as is best for us.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

**Amen**

*Prayer for Offering* 

God of beauty and bounty: we offer these gifts as tokens of our dedication and gratitude to you, God and Father of all. Where they are able, may they enrich the lives of those in need and may they empower the work of ministry for your kingdom.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

**Amen**

*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**

*Recessional Hymn* 

**To God be the glory, great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

**Refrain:**

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son  
and give him the glory, great things he has done!*

**2 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our joy and our wonder, when Jesus we see.**

**[Refrain]**

*Author: Fanny Crosby*

## Final Blessing



May God almighty bless, preserve,  
and keep you and those you love this Lent.  
May he who fashioned worlds yet chose  
to make his home within you keep you ever-mindful  
of his grace and mercy. In the name of God,  
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.  
**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.

## Follow us



Keep connected on our various social media  
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### E.F.T

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