

A Liturgy of the Word Fourth Sunday of Easter

Date: 30 April 2023

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

Hymn

Thine for ever! God of love,
hear us from thy throne above;
thine for ever may we be
here and in eternity.

Thine for ever! Lord of life,
shield us through our earthly strife;
thou the Life, the Truth, the Way
Guide us to the realms of day.

Thine for ever! O how blest
they who find in thee their rest!
Saviour, guardian, heavenly friend,
O defend us to the end.

Thine for ever! Shepherd, keep
us thy frail and trembling sheep;
safe alone beneath thy care,
let us all thy goodness share.

Thine for ever! Thou our guide
all our wants by thee supplied
all our sins by thee forgiven,
lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven

Author: Mary Fawler Maude (1819-1913)

Introduction

Alleluia! Christ is risen
He is risen indeed. Alleluia

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Call to Worship

Our Good Shepherd calls.
He knows us each by our name.

Our Good Shepherd leads.
We are here to listen and to follow.

Our Good Shepherd protects and provides.
We give thanks and praise for our Good Shepherd



Gathering Prayer:

Good Shepherd who calls us each by name and who leads us beside still waters and into green pastures, thank you for bringing us to this time of worship. Refresh us and heal us again. Remind us of the many ways in which you have blessed our lives with your abundant love and your presence. Guide our hearts and our spirits that we may hear your words, know your protection, and be sustained by your Spirit. In the name of the Good Shepherd, who leads us to life, we pray. AMEN.

Collect for Purity

**Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known.
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleans 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

Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we do not always live as we are called. In this time of confession, let us remember that Jesus is the good Shepherd who cares for the flock with great patience and compassion and is merciful and just and eager to offer grace and love.

Let us turn to the Lord, our shepherd to confess our sins.

**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

Good Shepherd,
you are the gate that secures the sheepfold:
grant that all who hear your voice
may know you who calls us each by name,
and follow where you lead;
for you live and reign in the unity of the Blessed Trinity,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of God

Acts 4:42-47
Psalm 22
1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10

The Sermon

The Revd Dave Edwards

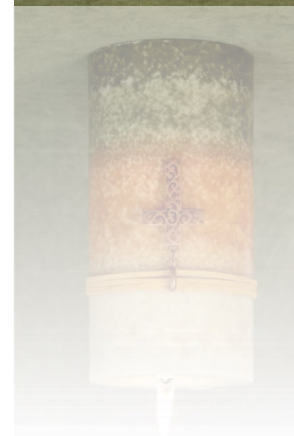
Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God in the words of the Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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 of the body
and the life everlasting. **Amen**



Prayers of Intercession

As a community of faith, we listen for God's voice and strive to follow it. May God hear the voices we now raise in prayer.

Loving God, through the ministry of Your church lead many to hear your voice and follow you. We pray for those who shepherd the Church may they be blessed by You and be inspired by Your Spirit. We pray for our archbishop Thabo and our diocesan bishop Steve. Help them in all the duties of the position they hold, as leaders in Your church. We also pray for the life of this community and all those who put their trust in you. We pray for our children preparing for confirmation. May they be blessed with deeper Faith in God's Love for them and in our love for them. May we become one faithful flock led by their Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Good Shepherd, as we think of our world, we pray for those who bear the responsibility of leadership, on large scales and small. We pray especially for those in positions of authority and leadership; that they do not misuse their powers but respect and care for all their peoples. Help them to search for and find polices and strategies which will be for the good of all, especially for the weakest and most vulnerable. We bring before you in a special way the political leaders in our own country and leaders everywhere. May your hand guide and direct them.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Maker of the universe, we pray for our beautiful world, thanking you for every person, creature, place and thing. We rejoice in your creation. Help us to be good stewards of our home, the earth, that we so often take for granted. May we, with awe and wonder, care for your creation: the land, water and air that sustain and nourish us.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find comfort and healing. We pray for those who are sick that they may know the love that God has bestowed on them and know that they are children of God and he cares for them through the efforts of nurses, family members and doctors to take care of them. Grant them relief and refreshment.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We give thanks for all who have shepherded us in life but are no longer with us. May their wisdom and love be a lasting blessing for us. We remember all those who have recently died. and for all who mourn that they may be comforted.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God our shepherd, you promise your people the gift of your Spirit. May your Spirit hear and receive these prayers we make to you, in the name of your risen Son, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as tokens of our gratitude and bless Christ's ministry with these offerings. **Amen.**

The 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

Final Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go..

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

Author: James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Final Blessing

Jesus, our Good Shepherd always loves us, always takes care of us
and always listens to us when we pray to him. Go in his care.
Trust him, follow him, listen to him. And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you this Easter and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

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

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



Follow us

Keep connected on our various social media
platforms with daily prayers, motivations and
much more.

Click icon to go to the relevant page.

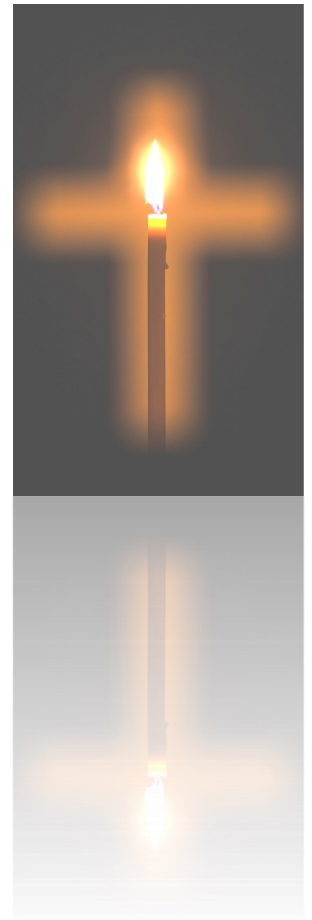
Website



Facebook



YouTube



Acknowledgements:

An Anglican Prayer Book 1989 Provincial Trustees of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Weekly Worship: The Presbyterian Church - United Church of Christ