

*A Liturgy of the Word Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Date : 7 May 2023*

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

*Hymn*

The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth;  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.

Tho' with a scornful wonder  
the world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up, "How long?"  
and soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.  
'Mid toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great Church victorious  
shall be the Church at rest.

*Author: S. J. Stone (1866)*



*Call to Worship*

Alleluia! Christ is risen  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk:  
**That by it you may grow up into salvation;**

As you come to him the corner stone:  
**You yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house;**

To be a holy priesthood  
**To offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Gathering prayer:

Risen Christ, during this season of Easter, as we recount the deeds of that first generation of disciples, help us to be faithful witnesses to your Resurrection. Like Stephen, grant us boldness and courage in the face of animosity and opposition.

Help us to walk by faith and not by sight, discerning your will and knowing that you are the way, the truth, and the life. In the name of Christ 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*

We come now to a time of penitence.  
If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness,  
we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light,  
as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Let us therefore 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*

Washed by Christ's blood, purged by the Spirit's flame,  
and restored by the Father's justice, accept your forgiveness  
in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### *The Collect*

Eternal God, your Son Jesus Christ  
is the way, the truth and the life for all creation;  
grant us grace to walk in his way,  
rejoice in his truth, and share his risen life;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen**



*The Word of God*

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5,17-18  
1 Peter 14:1-14

*Gospel Reading*

John 14:1-14

*The Sermon*

Sermon: The Revd Sharmain James

*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*

Lord of light and life, in this season of Easter, as we continue to live our lives in the light of your Son's resurrection, strengthen us in the face of life's challenges. So often, Lord, it is easy and tempting to shrink back into the darkness, into our old selves, because this is what we know and what is comfortable. Help us, Lord, to always take courage, knowing that whatever comes into your light will be redeemed and restored.

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

We pray for the universal Church, called to the Body of the Risen Christ, lifting up its hands, bearing to the world its wounds. In the Church's vocation, help us to be faithful witnesses of the resurrection, to care for the needy and vulnerable, and to proclaim your truth in all situations. We pray for Steve, our Bishop, and Thabo, Archbishop. We pray for the Diocese of Johannesburg and for every parish which is the local expression of Christ's Body. Equip us, Lord, for the mission of building your kingdom.

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

## St Michael's Anglican Church, Bryanston



Help us Lord, to be witnesses of Christ to each other. Empower us with your grace and, by your Holy Spirit, may we express Christ's redeeming love to one another. Help us to bind up the brokenhearted in our midst and to heal the wounded. Equip and empower each and every member to exercise their ministry and vocation, that our parish may be a true reflection of Christ's Body in the world.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Risen Lord, you overcame death and the power of the grave and call us to be a resurrection people. We commit into your hands all have passed on recently, as well as those whose year's mind occurs this week. Grant release and peace to their souls and may your heavenly countenance shine upon them. Comfort and console those who may be mourning their loss.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We know Lord, that your wounds bring us healing. We pray for all who are ill or suffering. As you place your healing hand upon us, may we find redemption and healing through our own woundedness. (We pray especially for...) Remind us that while our earthly bodies may be subject to degeneration and decay, you will grant the imperishable gift of our spiritual body at the Day of Resurrection. Grant us your peace in the face of pain, and an abiding knowledge that you are sovereign Lord over the forces of life and death.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We make these prayers, Lord, in concert with the universal Church. May they be a pleasing and fragrant offering, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### *Prayer for Offering*

Loving Father, thank you for the privilege of partnering with you and each other in the work of ministry. We know that you will bless our efforts and contributions for the proclamation of the Gospel and the building up of your kingdom. Father, be pleased with our tithes and offerings today. Affirm your love, grace, and provision for each giver in our midst. Thank you for their heart for ministry. And may we continue to give with cheerfulness and full trust that you will never fail us in our needs.

**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**

### *Hymn*

Hymn: Give me oil in my lamp – MP 167  
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.  
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.  
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.  
Keep me burning till the break of day.

Refrain:

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King!

Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing.  
Give me love in my heart, I pray.  
Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing.  
Keep me sharing till the break of day. (Refrain)

Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing.  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing.  
Keep me singing till the break of day. (Refrain)

Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying.  
Give me faith in my heart, I pray.  
Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying.  
Keep me praying till the break of day. (Refrain)

Author: Traditional

*Final Blessing*

May the blessings of light be upon you,  
light without and light within.  
And in all your comings and goings,  
may you ever have a kindly greeting  
from those you meet along the road,  
as you continue to trust in Jesus Christ,  
the way, the truth, and the life.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**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**

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