



*A Liturgy of the Word Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*25 July 2021*



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

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

*Processional Hymn*

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest.  
Lay down, O weary one,  
lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad.  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream.  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am the dawning light.  
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun,  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till trav'ling days are done.

*Author: Horatius Bonar (1846)*

*Call to Worship*

Strengthen your weak hands, and make firm your knees  
**Say to those who are anxious, Be strong; fear not. Our God saves**

Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.  
**For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.**

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice  
**Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually**

Oh, that salvation would come from Zion  
**When God restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad!**





## Introductory Rite

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

Praise the Lord:  
**Praise God, you servants of the Lord.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessed be God's Name, now and forever**

## The Gloria

*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*

Lord God heavenly King, peace you bring to us!  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we sing our son of praise!

*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*

Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away our sins, oh Lord, have mercy on us all!

*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*

At the Father's right hand, Lord, receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One and you alone are Lord!

*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*

Glory Father and Son, glory Holy Spirit!  
To you we raise our hands up high! We glorify your name!

*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*  
*In excelsis Deo!*

*Written by: Michael Anderson, published in 1999.*

## Collect for Purity

*Let us pray.*

**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 Kyrie*

Times are troubled, people grieve  
See the violence, feel the hardness;  
All my people, weep with me.

*Kyrie eleison,  
Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison,*

Walk among them, I'll go with you.  
Reach out to them with my hands  
Suffer with me, and together  
We will serve them, help them stand.

*Kyrie eleison,  
Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison,*

Forgive us, Father; hear our prayer  
We would walk with you anywhere,  
Through your suff'ring, with forgiveness,  
Take your life into the world.

*Kyrie eleison,  
Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison,*

## *The Penitence*

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.  
The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.  
Let us confess together:

**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*

**Generous God,  
you nourish us with words of life  
and the bread of blessing:  
strengthen us to live confidently in your goodness,**





facing our fears and sharing our bread;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

### *The Word of God*

2 Samuel 11:1-15  
Psalm 14  
Ephesians 3:14-21

### *Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Let your hearts rejoice in the Lord  
Let your word proclaim his deeds  
Let your voice sing out to the world  
That our God has come to save  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,

### *Gospel Reading*

John 6:1-21

### *The Sermon*

by Revd Matthew Wright

### *Affirmation of Faith*

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the 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*

As we seek to gather and recollect ourselves in the aftermath of the tumult of last week, we turn to God, bringing to him the needs and petitions of our communities, of our country, and of our world.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that we are your children, created in your image, and dearly loved by you. We thank you for journeying with us as a country, for the strides we have made in the past, and for the future challenges we will face together. We commit into your hands the healing of our land, praying that as a society we may acknowledge all that plagues us from our past. We realise that the many promises of our democracy have, for various reasons, not materialised meaning that much of our past injustice has not been addressed. We beseech your help as we seek to find ways of fostering a peaceful, equitable, and just society for all.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**



Almighty God, as we seek to address the inequality in our society, and those structures which bar people from leading full and prosperous lives, we pray for our economy and the South African workplace at large. We pray for the mitigation of any negative, knock-on effects the recent unrest may have caused on our economy and society. We pray especially for those small businesses and individuals who were impacted negatively by the recent looting. Help them to recover, help their business to thrive, and help them to employ more people within their communities.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We thank you, Lord, for the display of solidarity within many communities in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng as they sought to stem the tide of destruction amidst the looting. We pray that you would help us to foster a spirit of unity in our country, cultivating the values of Ubuntu and Botho. Help us, Lord, to collectively recognise that we can only progress, that we can only grow and develop, by our mutual co-operation and by our mutual respect for one another. May the peace which you desire for our country, abound in each individual, and in our throughout our land.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

In the wake of the recent unrest in our own country, we continue to pray for global and local efforts to combat the COVID19 pandemic. We pray for the effective vaccination of our own citizens, that we may achieve herd immunity and so avoid further lockdowns. We continue to commit into your hands, gracious Lord, all of our doctors, nurses, and medical staff as they work tirelessly to care for the sick and administer vaccinations. Help us, as society, to take seriously the need to rise above the challenges of COVID19 and so progress as a society once more.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

It seems, gracious Father, that especially in our own country we are in an unprecedented time of change and unrest. Death and disease have become familiar to us, creating in many a spirit of despair and despondency. We commit into your hands those we have lost due to the COVID pandemic; the lives lost last week in the unrest and looting, praying that you will look with mercy upon these departed souls. We also commit into your hands, gracious Father, all who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones: grant them your peace and hope, giving them a vision of a better, brighter future.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Gracious Father, we pray for the Church and, in particular, for the community of St Michael's. As the Church seeks to steer a clear path for the community of God's faithful in these uncertain times, we commit into your hands all members of our community, their family and loved ones, asking your hand of comfort, peace and protection to be upon them. In the absence of our usual fellowship and in the absence of the Sacraments, we pray, Heavenly Father, that you would fill and empower each one of these your faithful. When their gaze is downcast, help them to fix their eyes on you; when their hearts are saddened, may they be filled with the presence of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We pray finally for our leaders, both religious and secular. Grant our president and his government, the conviction and fortitude to lead our country through this time of crisis. We pray for religious leaders everywhere, asking that you would give them a message of hope for your people. We pray especially for Thabo, our Archbishop, and Steve, our Bishop. We commit into your hands, Father, the leadership of our parish, praying your hand of blessing upon Father Moses, Fr Matthew, Rev Alison and Rev Margaret, as well as on all the staff, as they seek to carry on the work of your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Almighty God, we offer these prayers, together with all members of the St Michael's community, knowing that we worship an almighty God who is strong to save. You have taught us, Lord Jesus, to bring our requests before the Father in your name, knowing that He will hear us. This we do, trusting in your faithfulness and loving mercy.

**Amen**



## Prayer for Offering

O God, you have fulfilled the many offerings of the old law in the one, perfect sacrifice of the new. Receive the gifts of your servants and bless them as you blessed the sacrifice of Abel in the days of old so that, what each of us has offered to your honour and glory may advance the salvation of all. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Our Father, which art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy Will be done  
On Earth as it is in Heaven  
Our Father, which art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Hallowed be thy name  
Our Father, which art in Heaven  
Our Father  
Hallowed be thy name  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy Will be done  
On Earth as it is in Heaven  
Give us this day  
Our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors  
Our Father, which art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Our Father, which art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us,  
deliver us from evil  
For Thine is the Kingdom,  
and all the power  
And the glory  
Forever Amen  
Our Father, which art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy Will be done  
On Earth as it is in Heaven

*(Michael W. Smith)*





## Prayer

We pray for all whose lives have been touched by tragedy, whether by accident or a deliberate act.

We pray for those who mourn, immerse them in your love and lead them through this darkness into your arms, and light.

We pray for those with the ability to comfort, be in both the words they use and in all that is left unspoken; fill each heart with love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, whose own suffering brought us life, here and for eternity. **Amen**

## Final Blessing

According to the riches of God's glory, may he strengthen you with power through his Spirit that, being rooted and grounded in love, you may have the ability to comprehend the breadth and length and height of Christ's love for you, and so be filled with all the fullness of God.

And may God, who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, bless, preserve and keep you, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## The Final Hymn

**Thine is the glory, Resurrected One!  
Endless is the vict'r'y now for us begun!  
Angels clothed in glory rolled the stone away,  
leaving only graveclothes where his body lay.  
Thine is the glory, Resurrected One!  
Endless is the vict'r'y now for us begun!**

**Lo! Jesus meets us. Risen from the tomb,  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let our doubting spirits find a voice to sing:  
Christ who died is living; death has lost its sting. Thine be the ....**

**Thine was the suff'ring, mine the endless life.  
Sin holds no dominion; love wins over strife.  
What then shall I shall I offer? Songs that never cease!  
Thou hast won the vict'ry, glorious Prince of Peace! Thine be the ....**

*Author: Edmond Budry (1904)*

## 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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