

# *A Liturgy of the Word Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Date : 30 July 2023*

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

## *Processional Hymn*

God is Love: let heav'n adore him;  
God is Love: let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.  
He who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heav'ns above,  
he who breathes through all creation,  
he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love: and he enfoldeth  
all the world in one embrace;  
with unfailing grasp he holdeth  
every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
then they find that selfsame aching  
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love: and though with blindness  
sin afflicts the souls of all,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
holds and guides them even then.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is Love, so Love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.

*Author: Timothy Rees (1874 – 1939)*

## *Call to Worship*

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

Let us sing praises for the wonders of God  
**Let us give thanks for the works of God**

Let us rejoice in the love of God  
**Let us worship in the presence of God**

## *Gathering Prayer*

Loving God, we come together today to offer this time of worship to you. Help us to so focus our thoughts on you that we experience afresh your grace, mercy, and love as fresh gifts in our lives. We praise you for blessing us in this way and for revealing your love



*St Michael's Anglican Church, Bryanston*

in Jesus Christ. With his endless love flowing through us,  
 and the Holy Spirit guiding us, may our love for you never cease.  
 God, source of loving kindness and strength, we worship you.  
 Jesus, foundation of our faith, we worship you.  
 Holy Spirit, ground of our very being, we worship you. **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**

*Call to Confession*

*The kingdom of heaven is for all of us,  
 but we come to this space full of our own burdens.  
 Let us confess our sins before our Triune God.*

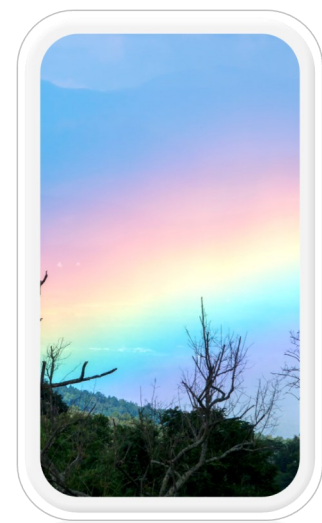
**Almighty God, our heavenly Father**  
**in penitence we confess**  
**that we have sinned against you**  
**through our own fault**  
**in thought, word, and deed**  
**and in what we have left undone.**  
**For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord**  
**forgive us all that is past**  
**and grant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

*Absolution*

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
 everything old has passed away; see,  
 everything has become new! All this is from God  
 to whom we have been reconciled by Christ.  
 Rejoice then, for we are known, accepted, loved  
 and forgiven, in the name of the Father, and the Son,  
 and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The Collect*

O Sovereign God.  
 Jesus Christ established your reign on earth:  
 Let its coming be like the mustard seed.  
 That grows into greatness, and  
 Like the leaven that mixes with the grain  
 Until the whole becomes greater;  
 To the praise of the one, holy and Blessed Trinity,  
 Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**



*The Word of God*

Genesis 29:1-28  
 Psalm 105:1-11  
 Romans 8: 26-30

*Gospel Reading*

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

*The Sermon*

The Revd Sharmain James

*Affirmation of Faith*

*Let us declare our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed*

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

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

*Prayers of Intercession*

As we meet to share this Holy Eucharist, we bring our prayers to God trusting that he will hear our prayers for the world, ourselves and for the church.

We pray for Your church all over the world, that we would be seed and yeast where life has grown barren. May it always treat your word and sacraments as precious treasures. We pray for the Anglican Church in Southern Africa under the leadership of Thabo our metropolitan and for our diocesan bishop Steve, may they continue to be a beacon of hope and direction and a source of strength and healing amidst the disillusionment prevalent in our country. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, you have blessed us with the gift of creation and call us to uphold its beauty. We pray for greater reverence for God's creation: that we may recognize the world around us as God's gift and work to promote care and respect for the soil, air, water, animals, and the human family. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



Creator God, we thank you for the example of leadership given to us by your Son, Jesus, in his life here on earth. We pray for the leaders of nations especially the leaders of this country who control wealth and power. May they seek the wisdom to not impose upon those they serve but to understand that they are one with their people. Grant us ethical and courageous leaders who put the good of people before their own interest. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for your blessing on all who share in the life and work of our parish: we pray for those who serve in the ministry of word, prayer, and sacrament; in teaching, learning together and pastoral care. Those serving the community and those in need. We give thanks for the generosity of those who support this community through their regular giving. We pray for our finance team and those managing our finances, especially as we address new realities and concerns regarding our Giving. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

God of grace and peace, we offer our prayers for those in need. In this moment of prayer, we pause to remember: those we know who are ill, anxious, for those who are lonely or living alone, and for those who are weary and carrying heavy burdens due to the economic effects of the rising cost of living. We pray that you will lead them towards your healing and wholeness. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We remember all those who have died and give thanks that nothing can separate us from you. We remember those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them and whose anniversary we recall. Help them to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of the church family. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

### *Prayer for Offering*

Gracious and loving God, you have blessed us with the treasures of your kingdom and we offer our response through these gifts of money and the service of our lives - may they be used to sow the seeds of your kingdom values of love, justice and peace. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

### *The 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*

May God who searches the heart  
Jesus, whose love overcomes all division.  
And the Spirit which helps us in our weakness  
Continue to lead you into life.

*St Michael's Anglican Church, Bryanston*

That you may serve with joy,  
 And the blessing of God Almighty,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be with you now and always.

**Amen**

*Dismissal*

Go as seed and yeast,  
 willing to lose your life in the larger purposes of God.  
 Go as treasure seekers.  
 Pouring out your days in search of hidden grace.

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

*Final Hymn*

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
 Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
 tender to me the promise of his Word;  
 in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
 his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
 his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!  
 Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
 to children's children and forevermore!**



*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**

