



A Liturgy of the Word First Sunday in Lent

Date : 21 February 2021



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Allie Joseph



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

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

Processional Hymn



And can it be that I should gain
 An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
 Died He for me, who caused His pain?
 For me, who Him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! how can it be
 That Thou, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!
 Who can explore His strange design?
 In vain the firstborn seraph tries
 To sound the depths of love divine!
 'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
 Let angel minds inquire no more.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

He left His Father's throne above,
 So free, so infinite His grace;
 Emptied Himself of all but love,
 And bled for Adam's helpless race;
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
 For, O my God, it found out me.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
 Alive in Him, my living Head,
 And clothed in righteousness divine,
 Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

Charles Wesley (1738)



Call to Worship



Once again, as the season of Lent begins, we are summoned by a gracious and merciful God.
We respond to God's steadfast love, calling us together in praise.

Let us bow in awe before the One Who Creates.

We approach God in reverence and wonder, rejoicing in the invitation to holy places.

Walk humbly before God in secret disciplines, in prayer and fasting and giving.

We seek the One who grants us life, upholding us with a willing spirit.

Introductory Rite



The Lord be with you

And also with you

For each step that we might take this Lent

Be our guide, O Lord of life

For each load that we might bear

Be our strength, O Lord of life

For each mountain we might face

Be our power, O Lord of life

For each river that might impede

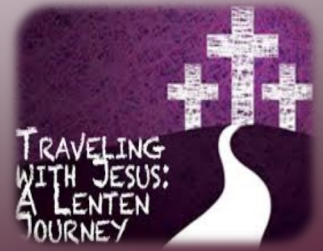
Be our safety, O Lord of life

For each place where we might rest

Be our peace, O Lord of life

For each sunrise and sunset

Be our joy, O Lord of life



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.**



The Kyrie



Morena re hauhele (Lord have mercy)
Morena re hauhele

Kriste re hauhele (Christ have mercy)
Kriste re hauhele

Morena re hauhele (Lord have mercy)
Morena re hauhele

The Penitence



Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us approach God and confess our sins together.

**Most holy and merciful Father,
We confess to you and to one another,
that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, Amen.**



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



God of our salvation,
your bow in the clouds
proclaims your covenant with every living creature:
grant us your Spirit, renew us in baptism
and make us faithful stewards of your creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



The Word of God



Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Acclamation



Glory to you, O Word of God; Lord Jesus Christ

I am the Light of the world, says the Lord
All who follow me will have the light of life

Glory to you, O Word of God; Lord Jesus Christ

I am the resurrection and the life
All who believe in me will live forever

Glory to you, O Word of God; Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel Reading



Mark 1:9-15

The Sermon



by Rev. Margaret Place



Affirmation of Faith



Let us declare our faith in God.

**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 

For the Church

We pray this day with Anglicans and fellow Christians around the world and for the Church of the Province of Central Africa. That in our words, worship, and work we will honour the covenant made with God at our baptism. We pray for Steve, our Bishop; Michelle our Archdeacon, the clergy of our Parish and the community of St Michael's: that through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving of Lent, we may receive renewal of faith in our lives, so that we may worship you in spirit and in truth.

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

For our world and its leaders

Creator God, You love the righteous and care for the stranger. Enlighten our leaders and all in authority to lead with integrity and to dismantle the abuse of privilege, and the selfishness of power; that they may lift up those who are bowed down, sustain the orphan and widow, and lead generously on behalf of the humble.

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

For the earth and creation

Almighty God, Creator of the universe, and loving Parent of us all:

May every rainbow remind us that you are in control of the earth, of nature, and of the seasons. We pray that Your Spirit may enrich the earth with the gift of life to all of creation. Help us to care for the environment so that the earth is a healthier place to live for our children and all the generations who follow us.

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

For the needs of our community

We continue our prayer for the teachers, healers, and caregivers as they move into this new quarter, with all the pressures and challenges they face every day. Give them the spirit of wisdom and patience, temperance and forbearance and make them aware of your special protection over them. Renew in them the spirit of joy and make them rejoice in you always as they serve your people.

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

For those touched by violence and injustice

We bring before you those who are victims of violence and injustice, in whatever form. We pray for strength to those charged with protecting the innocent and the vulnerable in society, that you make them aware of the sacred trust they have been entrusted with. Give us grace that we will not lose hope but that we may be renewed in your Holy Spirit.

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

For the bereaved

For those who have died, Lord we pray that they experience everlasting light and life in your kingdom. Equally Lord for those who are mourning the dead, give us a full measure of your compassion and love and see us through this new challenge of sharing life with those still in this world and those who are with you in heaven. Renew our spirit Lord and give us enduring hearts.

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

God our Father, in every age you call a people to hear your word and to do your will.

Open our eyes to your deeds and our ears to the sound of your call so that our every act may increase our sharing in the new life you offer to us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Prayer for Offering

Gracious Father, thank you that you give us the gift of abundant life. You have said that you are a Good Father who gives good gifts to his children. Your generosity overflows to us. Everything we have is a gift from you. As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have bestowed upon us. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. And may blessing and glory, wisdom and honour, power and strength, be unto you our God, forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
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 trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that,
when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us
so we and all your children shall be free
and the whole earth live to praise your name,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Blessing

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Go now, and live in the spirit of your baptism,
even when you are led into wild and hard places.
With repentance and trust, give yourselves to God,
and with fasting and prayer,
strengthen yourselves against the ways of the tempter.



And may God enfold you in tender and lasting love.
May Christ be beside you in times of struggle.
And may the Spirit guide you back to the path
whenever you stray, that you may keep the covenant.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

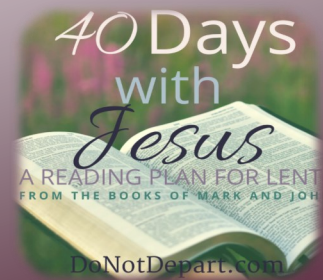


Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn



Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er this 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, breath forgiveness o'er us:
All our weaknesses thou dost know;
Though didst tread this earth before us,
Thou did 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,
Ever can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791 – 1867). Public Domain.

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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E.F.T

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