

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Metcalfe
February 19, 2023
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we begin our Lenten journey, we acknowledge that the places in which we live and worship lie on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

People: **May we walk the paths of reconciliation and peace as children of the Spirit.**

Fr. Michael: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on God's holy mountain. Call for the people together – young and old.

People: **For the day of the Lord is coming, a day unlike any other.**

Fr. Michael: Even now, God says, return to me with all your hearts, change your lives and not just your clothing.

People: **Let us return to our God and God's ways, for our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of compassion and mercy.**

Fr. Michael: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. People: **and also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is the time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey towards Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole... I invite you therefore to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and alms-giving, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God. And so, let us pray,

Fr. Michael: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, blot out my offences. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from all my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.

People: **Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Fr. Michael: And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb. For behold, you look for truth deep within me and will make me understand wisdom secretly. Purge me from my sin and I will be pure, wash me and I shall be clean indeed.

People: **Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Fr. Michael: Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sin and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. People: **Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Fr. Michael: Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you. Deliver me from death O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation. Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Had you desired it, I would have offered you sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart O God, you will not despise. People: **Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Fr. Michael: Out of the depth of our own inner heart-silence, we pray

People: **Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, to one another and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone:**

Fr. Michael: We have not loved you with our whole hearts and minds and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as we love ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. We have been deaf to your call to serve others as Christ has served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ and we have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: **Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

Fr. Michael: We confess to you Lord, all our past unfaithfulness; the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives; our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people; our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Fr. Michael: We confess our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in our daily life and work; our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend that faith that lies in us.

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Accept our repentance Lord, for the wrongs we have done, for our blindness to human need and our indifference to injustice and cruelty. For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from us. For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Restore us good Lord and let your anger depart from us.

People: **Hear us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Fr. Michael: Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and our penitence and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FOR THOSE WHO WISH, ASHES WILL NOW BE IMPOSED AT THE ALTAR. PLEASE COME FORWARD AND KNEEL WITH YOUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

Fr. Michael: Accomplish in us Lord the work of your salvation that we may show forth your glory in all the world.

People: **By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord, bring us with all your saints into the joy of the resurrection.**

Fr. Michael: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins; through our Lord Jesus, strengthen you in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us all in eternal life. **Amen**

Reader: A reading from the prophet Joel (Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17) Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near - a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?" The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:10)

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you

also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way:

through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Fr. Michael: Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now for ever and ever.

Amen

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: It is right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendour of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day, and, beholding your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your name, as we say,

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Fr. Michael: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power; your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Saviour. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfil your purpose he gave himself up to death and, rising from the grave, destroyed death and made the whole creation new. And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfilment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end: at supper with them he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Father, we now celebrate the memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

All: **We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Fr. Michael: Father, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and this cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of your name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember all who minister in your Church. We pray for Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as The Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, the Rt Rev Christopher Harper, Sacred Circle Events, and the ministry of reconciliation. We pray for our Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre and Sharon York, Executive Director, as well as their staff and clients and for the Peace Latvian Lutheran Church. Remember all your people especially Marjorie, Myra, Louise, Roy, Richard and Deb, Beth, Cheryl, Jeannette, Howard, Irene, Sarah, Zachariah and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favour with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: We break this bread.

People: **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Fr. Michael: Let your Church be the wheat which bears its life in dying.

People: **If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

Fr. Michael: The gifts of God for all the children of God.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Fr. Michael: God of compassion, through your Son Jesus you have reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you and follow you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Truly dust we are and to the dust we shall return; truly yours we are and to you we shall return. Help this to be a time of turning around and beginning again. Through the forty days of Lent, help us to follow you and to find you in the disciplines of prayer and caring; in whatever we deny ourselves and whatever we set for ourselves to learn and to do. Help us to discover you in both our loneliness and our community, in our emptiness and our fulfilment, in our sadness and in our laughter. Help us to find you when we ourselves are lost. Help us to follow you on the journey to Jerusalem, to the waving palms of people's hope, to your rejection, to the cross and the empty tomb. Help us to perceive new growth amid the ashes of the old and help us, carrying your cross, to be signs of your kingdom come.

Amen (from the Patmos Abbey re:Worship)

All: **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**

Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Fr. Michael: The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God be among us and between us now and always in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

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