

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, METCALFE
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 15, 2023

Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we gather to worship our Creator and our Lover God, we acknowledge that this sacred space and the spaces in which we live and move and find our meaning in life lie on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe peoples.

People: **Together, may we seek for and nurture reconciliation of all creation that surrounds us as gifts from God.**

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, in love you open wide the doors and welcome us into your presence – saints and sinners alike you spread a table before us filled with the finest fare – a feast of love and mercy for the body and for the soul.

People: **We come with joy to meet you here, to eat and to drink at your table, to taste and see your goodness and to celebrate your grace and mercy in our lives.**

Fr. Michael: May your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgivings, our prayers and petitions as we worship together in your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our host and our Lord.

Amen.

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: As people called and gathered, we pray,

People: **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.

Fr. Michael: And now with all the saints in heaven and on this good earth, we say,

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Almighty God, in baptism you have adopted us as your sons and daughters. Quicken, we pray, your Spirit within us, that we being renewed in body, mind and spirit, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: **Amen**

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 25: 1- 9) Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. You have made the city a heap of rubble, the fortified town a ruin, the foreigners' stronghold a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will honor you; cities of ruthless nations will revere you. You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall and like the heat of the desert. You silence the uproar of foreigners; as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is stilled. On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

The Word Of The Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: O Lord, you are our God and we will exalt your blessed name. In perfect faithfulness, you have done marvellous things, things planned long ago. You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in distress. You are a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat of the day. O Lord, you are our God and we will exalt your name.

Amen (The Reverend R. J. Fairchild Kir-shalom website)

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 23

Because the Lord shepherds me, my deepest needs are met.

People: **God gives me rest in the green pasture of The Word and leads me beside the still waters of prayerful silence**

Reader: The Lord restores me, body and soul and leads me in the paths of wholesomeness and righteousness. Even when I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I need fear no evil for El Shaddai is with me with the rod and staff of blessedness to guide me.

People: **A table is set before me in the presence of my inner enemies and my head is anointed with blessings; my cup of joy overflows!**

Reader: I know that God's goodness will follow me as long as I live and that I will dwell forever in the in the house of Divine Presence.

(Marchienne Vroon Rienstra Swallows Nest, A Feminine reading of the Psalms Eerdmans Press 1992)

Reader: A reading from St. Paul's letter to the church in Philippi (Philippians 4: 1-9)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, to together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is

pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: God of peace, help us to rejoice in you always. Make us gentle for everyone and keep us from being anxious about anything. Help us to ask you for what we need in thanksgiving, and let your peace guard our hearts and minds in the name of Jesus.

All: **Amen** (Michael Perry Bible Praying)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. Matthew (22:1-14)

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Celebrant: Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Homily

Fr. Michael: Faith means betting your life that something is true. With our sister and brother Christians around the world, we affirm

All: **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 power of 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 again 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.**

Reader: God, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we too have known your love and experienced your care and compassion. You call us to extend that caring into all the world- to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves. And so we bring the needs of our world, your world before you now. Lord, in your mercy...

People: **Hear our prayer**

Reader: We pray for the many who do not have enough: enough to eat or shelter against the cold and the rain; enough employment or money to pay the bills; enough food or medical care. We pray for all those dedicating their time and resources to being shepherds to the lost and lonely and companions on the journey to wholeness and hope. We pray for the special outreach programmes in our diocese and our parishes and in our diocesan cycle this week, we remember Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as The Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, Sacred Circle, and the Ministry of Reconciliation and National Indigenous Archbishop, The Most Rev. Christopher Harper. We pray for clergy and lay people who minister in hospitals and long-term care facilities throughout our Diocese and for all clergy under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Ottawa. We pray for Emmanuel, Arnprior and The Reverend John Stopa. We hold before you especially this week Lord, the Synod of our diocese which will meet on the weekend and hold Robin and Meredith in our prayers. In our parish, we pray for all who have asked for our prayers: Lisa, Marjorie, Beth, Randy, Howard, Irene, Richard, Deb, Leonard, Owen, Louise, Sarah, Jeanette, Cheryl, Zachariah and those who are known to you alone. (SILENCE) We pray for all who have died especially Glenda Bauman (Meredith's sister) Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer**

Reader: We pray for those who have more than enough but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in their lives; those who indulge in dangerous or self-indulgent activities in order to lessen the pain and loneliness they feel and experience. We remember the rejected and those discriminated against because of race, gender identification, economic or social status, religious expression or those who reject religion and pray that we may be, as your servant Francis of Assisi said, "instruments of your peace". Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Reader: God, your grace reaches out to all of us. You call us to live as citizens of heaven, working together with one heart and mind. Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy of the Good News we have received, offering our lives in service to your Kingdom where the first are last and the last are first and there is grace enough for all.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Lord Jesus, we thank you for the invitation to gather around your sacred table. When we look at the bread and the wine, we are reminded of your body and blood: your Body that was broken for us and the Blood that was shed. But we know that death was not the end and celebrate that you are no longer nailed to a tree but present to us now by your Holy Spirit. We are glad that you invite us to share in a special feast of the richest food and the finest wine- a celebration that reveals your Kingdom.

People: **Help us Lord to respond to your invitation and not to despise it; to put away our old clothes of mis-behaviours and put on the wedding garments of your Kingdom. We ask for your forgiveness because we have tried living without your presence in our lives, for relying on our own achievements, for believing that we are the architects of our own destiny. Forgive us, restore us, renew us and equip us to do your will on this earth until your Kingdom comes. Help us find the riches of your grace as we meet you in worship, in prayer and in fellowship. Amen**

Fr. Michael: Hear this good news: "God so loved the world that he gave His only Son so that through him all who believe will not die but have life eternal...whoever believes in Him is not condemned". Through the compassion and grace of our loving and living God we are therefore freed from the darkness and invited into the light in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: God of constant love, in this eucharist you renew the covenant you made with us at our baptism. As you are faithful in all things, may we, in our offering, be faithful to our calling, in Jesus' blessed name.

People: **Amen**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant: It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: **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.**

Celebrant: Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will. On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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." Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice

in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: As Jesus has gifted, this to his Church, so we pray,

People: **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 those who 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.**

Fr. Michael: "I am the bread that has come down from heaven" says the Lord.

People: **Give us this bread for evermore.**

Fr. Michael: Faithful God, in baptism and eucharist we are made one with you. May we who have shared in holy things always bear witness to your covenant of joy, hope and love.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Lord God, we look with increasing horror at the violence which has been loosed in our world – the bloody bombings in Israel and Gaza and the escalation of strike and counterstrike by both sides, the wanton destruction of land and people in the Ukraine, the terrorism of the gangs in Haiti. We mourn for the silent and often hidden violence which surrounds us in our communities and our nation based on race, creed, gender choice, marital status, economic power or place of origin which so degrade us as a people and lead us towards some dark paths. Lord, judge the wrongdoers and help us to shine as beacons of hope and love in the brokenness of our world. Give us words to say and hearts to feel.

All: **Amen**

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 peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus the Christ. And the blessings of God – Father, Son and Spirit – be with you all this week and always.

All: **Alleluia!**

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