

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe  
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
October 22, 2023  
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we gather this new day to share life and hope, we acknowledge that this sacred space and the places in which we live, move and find meaning lie on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe peoples.

People: **Together, let us honour the land and each other and seek unity and reconciliation among all peoples.**

Fr. Michael: The earth has its rulers but God is Lord of all.

People: **Praise God above all the giver and ruler of life.**

Fr. Michael: The mountains may tremble and the oceans may roar,

People: **but God's presence is more powerful than the earth itself.**

Fr. Michael: Come into God's presence, for God is among us now.

People: **O God, show us your glory for we seek your ways.**

Fr. Michael: Come to the Rock, the God of life, for the Lord is present here and now. Alleluia! 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, together 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 all the saints gathered here on this good earth, together we acclaim,

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 and everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that forsaking what lies ahead and reaching out for what lies before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Loving living God, be among us now. Show us your ways; guide our steps. Live in us so that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us to hear your words, challenging us to give back to you all those things that are yours. Help us to remember that all we have and all that we are, are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and in love. Holy One among us, help us to be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message in love.

All: **Amen** (Mary Scifries from Ministry Matters)

Reader: A reading from the prophecy given to Isaiah Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things. The Word Of The Lord (Isaiah 45:1-7)

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: O Lord, open our eyes and our hearts to your presence among us. Through your Word and Spirit, challenge us to greater faithfulness and obedience so that we may be the people you intend us to be and help us to accomplish the work you have set before us.

All: **Amen** (Mary Scifries from Ministry Matters)

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is taken from Psalm 96. Sing to the Lord a new song; \*

All: **sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**

Reader: Sing to the Lord and bless his name; \*

All: **proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

Reader: Declare his glory among the nations \*

All: **and his wonders among all peoples.**

Reader: For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*

All: **he is more to be feared than all gods.**

Reader: As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

All: **but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**

Reader: Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!

All: **Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!**

Reader: Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*

All: **ascribe to the Lord honour and power.**

Reader: Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name; \*

All: **bring offerings and come into his courts.**

Reader: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*

All: **let the whole earth tremble before him.**

Reader: Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king! \*

All: **he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."**

Reader: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*

All: **let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

Reader: Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, \*

All: **when he comes to judge the earth.**

Reader: He will judge the world with righteousness \*

All: **and the peoples with his truth.**

Reader: A reading from Paul's first letter to the people of Thessalonika You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. (1 Thessalonians 2:1-5)

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: O God, help us always to seek to please you rather than the favour of others. Guide us, O God, by the law given through your Spirit so that our way may be blameless and pure. Make us gentle and compassionate, humble and forgiving, just and holy in all of our relationships.

All: **Amen** (Richard Fairchild, Kir-Shaom website)

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 (22:15-22)

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

Celebrant: Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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 all who share our faith journey, we declare,

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: Let us remember before God, our country and all her people and give thanks for all who call Canada home. We pray you Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer**

Reader: Let us pray that on earth your Church may speak without fear and shine as a beacon for peace and the rights and dignity of every person. We pray for Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as Staff at Ascension House. We pray for all retired clergy of the Diocese of Ottawa and for St. Margaret's, Vanier and The Reverend Colin McFarland and The Reverend Canon Aigah Attagutsiak. We pray you Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer**

Reader: We pray that justice, love and responsible freedom may be the basis of the social order in our world and in our country so that all may live in security and peace. We pray you Lord,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray that all humanity may share equitably in the world's material and spiritual goods, and that the state and civic authorities may help and protect the weak and the vulnerable. We pray you Lord,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray that the Church may bear witness to God's kingdom. We pray that we in Metcalfe may share the love and hope of Christ with others and we hold before you this day those who have asked us to remember them: Lisa, Marjorie, Beth, Randy, Howard, Irene, Richard, Deb, Leonard, Owen, Louise, Sarah, Jeanette, Cheryl, Zachariah and those who are known to you alone. We pray you Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Reader: God, you love all your creation and people are your concern. Help us to share in the care and nurture of all in the name of Jesus who became one with us so we may walk in the newness of life and hope.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Loving God, you have been our dwelling place for all generations.

People: **Since the creation of the world, you have nurtured us in your love. We shamefully acknowledge that too often we do not share your love with others with the wild abandon with which you embrace us. We are selective as to who we call our neighbours – only those who are clean, those who look like us, those who speak properly, those who seem safe. Loving God, teach us to love more fully for in loving you our lives will show love towards all others even as your love encompasses all your creation through all generations.**

Fr. Michael: God pours blessings upon us even when we choose to walk our own paths and go our own way. God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness to all. So, praise be to God who sets us free to walk in new ways on paths by still waters of hope and joy. Go now and live in the light. Alleluia!

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

People: **And also with you.**

WE SHARE THE SHALOM OF GOD WITH ONE ANOTHER.

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, your Word inspires and informs our faith. May we who offer you our praise and our gifts trust you in all things. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

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: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people. He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we 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 and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it

in memory of me.” Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ. All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

People: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And now, as Jesus has gifted 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: Creator of all, you have given us golden fields of wheat whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

People: **So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your Kingdom.**

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

People: **Thanks be to God**

**WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD WITH ONE ANOTHER**

Fr. Michael: God of peace, you have nourished us in this sacrament with the body and blood of Christ. May we who have taken holy things keep faith in our hearts and our lives, in the name of Jesus.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over the generations. Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect. Let the sun come out and fill the skies with rainbows. Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken. Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly, so that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin colour.

Fr. Michael: Let the warmth and the brightness of the sun melt our selfishness so we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbours. And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all peoples as our neighbours. Let the earth, nourished by the rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty and let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upwards to heaven. Amen. Selah! (Rabbi Harold Kushner)

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: As you go from here, remember this the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead also lives in you, breathing new life and freedom into your hearts and minds. So go from here with joy and confidence, knowing that God is at work within you. And the blessing of God – Father, Son and Spirit – be with you and yours and those whom you love and those who love you this week and always.

All: **Alleluia!**

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