

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
NOVEMBER 12, 2023
PROPER 27
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we gather on this new day to celebrate our life in community and our calling into service, we acknowledge that this sacred space and all the spaces in which we find meaning in our every day lives lie on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

People: **With them, we remember the source and heart of this good land and dedicate ourselves to journey together in hope and in the spirit of reconciliation.**

Fr. Michael: God has gathered us to this place,

People: **where we hear the stories which show us what the Kingdom of God is like.**

Fr. Michael: God summons us to this place,

People: **where we learn how to serve our God without reservation or hesitation.**

Fr. Michael: God will send us from this place,

People: **to share with others God's hopes and dreams, so together we can choose to follow our Creator Lord.**

Fr. Michael: All this we do within the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God and fellowship which is ours in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Alleluia and Alleluia!** (Thom Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies)

Fr. Michael: As community called, and community 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: With all the saints in heaven and those who live among us here on this good earth, together 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: Eternal God, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning, grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of eternal life which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus the Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: We worship you, O God, as the one in whom we have placed our hope. We share the desire of people of old to tell of the blessings you have effected in our lives. When we think of the greatest blessing of them all – the gift of yourself in human flesh – we joyfully acknowledge that our joy in you is not displaced. We choose to serve you because you chose to touch our lives so graciously in Christ. May our faithful witness and the service of our lives reveal the depth of your love and gratitude as we worship you and as we praise and adore you in Jesus' name and in the power of the Spirit.

All: **Amen.** (Moirra Laidlaw from Liturgies Online)

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Amos (Amos 5:18-24) Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: O God, you alone are our judge. Send your Spirit of truth to expose our self-deception and challenge our complacency so that we may surrender to your mercy and grace and follow your will through Jesus Christ our Liberator.

All: **Amen** (from Worship@North)

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is taken from Psalm 78 (Psalm 78: 1-7)

Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children. We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done.

All: **Forget not the deeds of God, but keep his commandments.**

Reader: He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, which he commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments.

All: **Forget not the deeds of God, but keep his commandments.**

Reader: A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonika (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus

died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: God of heaven and earth, God of sunrise and sunset, God of the highest mountain and deepest valley, hear our prayers today. Declare your message you us the courage to listen. May our listening turn to action and our actions touch the hearts of all who need to hear your Voice. We put our trust in you, knowing that bit is well-paced in your gentle and caring hands.

All: **Amen** (Kim Gilliland, The United Church of Canada)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. Matthew (St. Matthew 25: 1-13)

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Fr. Michael: This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Fr. Michael: Faith means betting your life that something is true. Knowing this, we affirm our faith as we say,

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, let your justice flow like a river which never ends.

People: **God, let your justice flow like a river which never ends.**

Reader: Lord, help those of us who are rich to be honest and fair just like you. May we who have abundance be fair and honest with all people, especially the poor we see and those who linger in the dark shadows of our parish, our village, our diocese and our world.

People: **God, let your justice flow like a river which never ends.**

Reader: May we defend the poor, rescue the homeless; may we be as helpful as the rain which refreshes the land to those who are treated unjustly. Let the wholeness and the fairness of your peaceable Kingdom live forever like the sun and the moon.

People: **God, let your justice flow like a river which never ends.**

Reader: We pray for all who are in authority, that they may reflect your call to justice. We pray for all those whose lives are being overwhelmed and destroyed by our inhumanity to one another, both globally and locally. We pray for our leaders in the Church, remembering in our diocese today Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as Our Community Ministries: Centre 105 (Cornwall), Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, Refugee Ministry and Belong Ottawa: Centre 454; St Luke's Table; and The Well. We pray for The Parish of Lower Ottawa Valley: Holy Trinity, Hawkesbury, St. John's, Vankleek Hill, St. Michael and All Angels, Maxville, with the Parish of Grenville/Calumet and the Chapel of St. Paul's, Fenaghvale The Reverend Bob Albert. We remember those in our parish family who have asked us to hold them in our hearts and our prayers, especially Liesa, Marjorie, Beth, Randy, Howard, Irene, Richard, Deb, Leonard, Owen, Louise, Sarah, Jeanette, Cheryl, Zachariah and those who are known to you alone.

People: **God, let your justice flow like a river that never ends.**

Reader: Let God's kingdom of Justice and equity reach from sea to sea, from heart to heart across all the earth.

People: **God, let your justice flow like a river that never ends. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Ten lamps gathered with enough oil for all; ten lamps gathered, but five are empty through our own neglect and disregard. Ten lamps gathered, with abundant oil to share; ten lamps gathered but five are lifeless where greed and laziness dwell. Ten lamps gathered – how many will burn through this night?

People: **Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray for generous hearts to share our oil with others; for the vision necessary to leave our comfortable pews in search of oil and forgiveness for the ways in which we allow our selfishness and our apathy to collide with the need to bear your light to others.**

Fr. Michael: Ten lamps gathered with oil enough for all. Come, children of God, into a sacred circle where sharing creates abundance and no one leaves hungry of mind, body or spirit. Bear the light, bring the hope, be the light in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Spirit. **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: And may the peace of the Lightbearer of lightbearers be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, your Word to us is food indeed. Receive all that we offer you this day and let your loving-kindness be our hope and our comfort; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **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: Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and one another to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world. When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we injure others, you confront us in your love and call us to the paths of righteousness. You stand with the weak, and those, broken and alone, whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last, and the last first. Therefore we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and saying

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: Blessed are you, O Holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land. When your people were taken into exile you wept with them by the river of Babylon and carried them home.

People: **Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

Fr. Michael: At the right time you sent your Anointed One to stand with the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed. Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them. He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and 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." Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come. Therefore we proclaim our hope.

People: **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Fr. Michael: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts that through them you may sustain us in our

hunger for your peace. We hold before you all whose lives are marked by suffering, our sisters and brothers. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

People: **Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

Fr. Michael: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and for ever.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And now, as Jesus has gifted his Church, 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 which has come down from heaven", says the Lord.

People: **Give us this bread forever.**

Fr. Michael: "I am the vine, you are the branches".

People: **May we dwell in him as he lives in us.**

WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

Fr. Michael: Living and Loving God, in this Eucharist you have filled us with hope and vision. May the power of your love which we know through hearing your Word and sharing your sacraments continue your saving work among us and bring us all the joy which you promise us through Jesus our Lord.

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: Come my sisters and brothers and follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before us in Christ. Revere the Lord. Serve God with sincerity and faithfulness. Teach those who come after you to trust in the Lord in all things. And may God protect us along the way; may Jesus keep us alert and prepared; and may the Holy Spirit fuel the lamp that guides our path. May God keep us vigilant and wise and bless us in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

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