

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe

EASTER 3

APRIL 14, 2024

Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we follow Jesus from Jerusalem back home to the Galilee, we remember that our sacred space and the places which we call home lie on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin people.

People: **May we journey forward together in peace, harmony and in a spirit of true reconciliation.**

Fr. Michael: The grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: We seek and find you in creation, O God, in the world you have made and in the people you have called. Your vulnerable, powerful Lamb is our shepherd and guide, leading us to share the shelter of your abundant life. Help us to recognize you here today in the beauty of the morning and in the challenges that lie before us. May the Risen One, your Shepherd-Lamb lead us to act for your justice and your peace: so that all may drink from your springs of the water of life and find their tears of sorrow and pain wiped away. This we pray in the name of the Risen Jesus.

All: **Amen.** (United Church of Christ, from Wild and Precious Life by Stephen Fearing 2020)

Fr. Michael: And now, as community called and gathered on the shores of the Galilee, we pray, Almighty God, People: **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: We are called to join with all the saints in proclaiming you as our Risen Lord and Saviour. In obedience to you, we acclaim, Glory to God in the highest,

People: **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: Great God of heaven and earth; we come to speak of your mighty power this morning, your wisdom, your goodness, your strength flaming out. We come to give you thanks for the great gifts you have endowed us with. This morning, we ask that you would resurrect us, opening us petal by petal with your shining love, warming us into life and even in the places where we feel cold and dead, let your light shine.

All: **Amen** (from Prayers for the Church year, Permalink 2018)

Fr. Michael: O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

All: **Amen**

Reader: A reading from The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 3:12-19)

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The Word of the Lord People:

Thanks be to God

Reader: Lord, let this be a fruitful day! In this hour of worship, open our eyes to beauty, tune our ears to harmony. The fragrance of your love permeating every moment; the touch of your hand guiding all that we do. Together, let us taste with delight the joy of your presence among us here and now.

All: **Amen** (from Prayers Permalink 2019)

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 30

I praise you, O God, for lifting me up and rescuing me from our enemies. When I cried to you, you heard me and healed me. You rescued my soul from hell and kept me alive, drawing us out of the pit of darkness.

People: **Sing praise to God all you faithful; give thanks for Yahweh's holy love!. Though the Lord may be angry for a moment, the favour of El Shaddai lasts for ever. The night may be filled with weeping, but joy comes with the morning!**

Reader: As for me, I was complacent, boasting "I shall never be moved!" God has made me strong and as secure as a mountain.

People: **But then you hid your face from me, and I was filled with shame; I pleaded with you saying, "Will my death profit you? If I die, will my dust be grateful to you? Will my corpse declare your truth? Hear me, O God my helper; favour and befriend me!"**

Reader: You heard me and turned my mourning into dancing! You removed my rags of sorrow and gave me garments of gladness! Therefore, I will praise you with glory in my soul. Yahweh, I will never stop offering you my thanks! (from Swallow's Nest by Marchiene Vroon Rienstra 1992)

Reader: A reading from the first letter of John to the Church (1John 3: 1-7) See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sins is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Lord, you chose a people for your own to lavish your love upon us; raise up among us prophets, priests, seers and rulers to be a people through which Messiah would be revealed to the world, and through whom your kingdom would come. You have chosen us, gathered here, to be your children, loved and blessed, forgiven through the one who knew no sin, the King of glory whose crown was made of thorns and whose name we raise in worship. Keep us faithful this day, Lord, and always.

All: **Amen**

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. Luke (24:36-48)

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

Fr. Michael: Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

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

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

Homily

Fr. Michael: Faith means betting your life that something is true. We join with the voices of the Church as we declare, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

All: 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: Hear our prayers O God as we hear your call. If only the world heard your Voice as clearly as did Paul and recognized its truth and beauty. But as we do, and they have not, grant us the strength to be your voice in the world.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer and touch our hearts.**

Reader: We pray for the world with so much violence and so few discernible solutions. We pray for the innocents in Crimea and Afghanistan, for all those in the world tortured and imprisoned because they are different, however that is defined, and for those who have the courage to speak against the powers of darkness.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer and touch our hearts.**

Reader: We pray for all those whose lives are trodden down by prejudice and hatred, for all those entrapped in the evil of misdirected righteousness; for all those who have been displaced and are refugees in foreign lands, that they may find hope in the heart of hopelessness.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer and touch our hearts.**

Reader: We pray for your Church as she struggles to be heard amidst all the chaos and confusion. In our diocesan cycle, we pray this week for Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as our Community Ministries: Centre 105, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, Refugee Ministry and Belong Ottawa: Centre 454; St Luke's Table; 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 Reverend Bob Albert. In our parish, we remember those who have asked us to pray for them in the silence of our souls and for those who have asked us as a family to remember them, especially at this time: Kelly, Marilyn, Liesa, Louise, Randy, Leonard, Marjorie, Beth, Howard, Irene, Richard, Deb, Jeanette, Cheryl, and Zachariah.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer and touch our hearts.**

Reader: We pray for all those who hold extreme positions politically or religiously, that they may see and acknowledge the harm they do to others in the name of ideology.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer and touch our hearts.**

Reader: We pray for all who are anxious, lonely, living in fear and need, for all affected by COVID; for those who are confused or lost. We pray also for our own families and our friends and that we may be able to continue to be the recipients of their love and care.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer and touch our hearts.**

Reader: Lord, hear our prayer and touch our hearts.

People: **Hear our prayer and touch our hearts. Amen**

Reader: Living God, we thank you that through the resurrection of Jesus our lives and ministries are transformed. Give us humble and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have made known to us. May we be bold in serving you and bringing your Good News to our communities. Help us to share of ourselves and our possessions with one another and especially with people in need.

Amen.

Fr. Michael: When we offer God our confession, we join in the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer:

People: **Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ. We confess that we fear that which is different. We**

confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like us, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love. We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that for us. We ask that you give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination and love to be your people in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen

Fr. Michael: God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that lies heavily on our hearts and our souls and this is a good thing. Sisters and brothers in the Lord, know that the love and mercy of God is from everlasting. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven and for this way say,
People: **Thank you Lord.**

Fr. Michael: And may the peace of the Risen Lord Jesus be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Creator of all, you have washed away our sins through water; you give us new life through the Spirit and redeem us in the blood of Jesus. As we celebrate the resurrection, renew your gift of life within us. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen 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: 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 and Miriam, you lead your people from bandage 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 generation, 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 the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Fr. Michael: Holy God, Source of all life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you send your Son Jesus 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 he 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 took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body 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, you do this is 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 evermore. Therefore, we proclaim our hope,

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

Fr. Michael: Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you Father this bread and this wine. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on 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 and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for evermore.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And now as Christ has gifted to his Church, we pray, Our Father,

People: **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: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

People: **Now we are raised to new life.**

Fr. Michael: We were buried in your tomb.

People: **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Fr. Michael: Live in us that we may live in you.

The gifts of God for the children of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Fr. Michael: Author and Giver of Life divine, in the breaking of bread we knew the Risen Christ. Feed us always in these mysteries so that we may show forth your glory to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Cast your net again. We know this familiar foolishness, so we cast it... we cast it wide, drag it deep, sweep it around the sea...suddenly, so many fish! The cry goes up with out hope, "It is the Lord; it is Jesus! He sank down to the bottom; down to the mud and the darkness; down to the pain and the brokenness; down to our level...until he was lifted up on a cross. Up went the fists; up went the mockeries; up went the stares; up went the sign King of the Jews. Down came the hammer; down came the tears; down came the blood; down came the love; down to our level, buried beneath waves of fear and injustice and sin, buried beneath earth. He did as He promised! He is lifted up from the earth! Up from the grave; up goes the shout; up goes the sun with the Son!...Cast your net again, my Jesus. Cast it wide, drag it deep, sweep it around the sea; draw us up from the bottom with you; draw us up from the mud and the darkness; draw us up from the pain and the brokenness; draw us up from the fear and the hate and the sin and the death; draw us up from the bottom with you! Cast your net again into the sea of humanity; cast it wide, drag it deep, sweep it around the sea. Draw us up; draw us in; we are caught in your saving embrace. Jesus said, "Now follow me"...come, cast the net; cast the net again and again and again and again and we will find some more. Cast it wide, drag it deep, sweep it around the sea...so many, so different, so beautiful..use all your strength to bring humanity in. "Have no fear". The net will hold; it will not break."

All: **Amen** (Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia 2000)

People: **You break in, O God, on the road; you break in, O God exactly the way we don't believe you break in and change everything.**

Fr. Michael: You break in, O God, with a call; you break in with an invitation; you break in O God with the truth.

People: **You break in, O God, with a new realm; you break in, O God, with a new world; you break in, O God, with your intent for the future.**

Fr. Michael: God, break in again and call us to be your workers; God, break in again and use the gifts that we are to build your kingdom; God, break in again and change the world once again. And the peace of God, that peace which passes all our understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father Son and Spirit be with us all this day and always.

All: **Amen.**

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services Copyright © 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and/or Eucharistic Prayers, Services of the Word, and Night Prayer © 2001 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. All rights reserved. Reproduced under licence from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library. Further copying is prohibited.