

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 15, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service

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10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PROCESSIONAL: *Majesty*

#17 SB

Celebrant: Lord, open our lips,
All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Celebrant: O God, make speed to save us.
All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: *I am the living bread which came down from heaven, says the Lord; anyone who eats this bread will live for ever. John 6:51*

VENITE

**All: Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God,
and a great king above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our maker.**

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Amen.

PSALM 95.1-7

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

A READING FROM PROVERBS

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servant girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, "You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 34:9-14

All: **O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.**

The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good?

Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts. Giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So, Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Norm Savill

For several weeks now we have heard Jesus' words about him being the bread of life, that feeding on him would sustain us. Most commentaries I read see this as a metaphor. A metaphor for eating up and digesting what he had to 'say'. Today's gospel reading seems to be the most graphic of his teaching on this subject. It is so graphic that one Sunday School child, after hearing about eating flesh and drinking blood, was heard to say 'oh gross'.

One man who took Jesus' words to heart and ate up all that Jesus had to say, was Paul. He took all that Jesus had to say and then he spread the word like the generous farmer, about whom we read, spreading his seed. He spread it everywhere without regard for the soil on which it was landing. Paul's seed spreading produced results. Some 30 fold, some 50 fold and some over 100 fold. Paul was largely responsible for the vast spread of the gospel, which Jesus had given, to feed him and millions more over the centuries.

As many of you know, some years ago Lise and I did an amazing trip to Greece and Turkey. The trip was to visit some of the places that St. Paul had travelled and preached after his conversion, to 'The Way', on the road to Damascus. The trip was billed as following the footsteps of St. Paul.

I can't imagine how Paul traveled so far mainly on foot. We did it by luxury coach.

We visited Athens and stood on Aeropagus Hill where we read Paul's speech to the leaders of the community, "*Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.*". We traveled to Corinth where Paul had spent 1 ½ years preaching and bring people to Christ. We spent a morning in Philippi and stood in the rain by the river where Paul baptised Lydia and brought her whole household to 'The Way' – and we renewed our baptismal vows there. We were in Laodicea, Pamukkale, Sardis, and the church of St. Sophia in Nicaea were in 325AD Constantine convened the first Council of Nicaea which was responsible for formulating the Nicene Creed. We visited the Basilica of St. John where John is thought to be buried and we visited nearby Ephesus. The letter from which we read today was sent to the church Paul had started there.

The Roman Empire had made the city of Ephesus a provincial capital and it was home to between 50 and 100 thousand people, maybe more. It was the third largest city in the Roman empire. Ephesus was known as a city of size, wealth, and power. People and merchandise passed through this port city on the way to and from Europe and the Middle East. It was a melting pot of cultures and religions. The major economies of the city were rooted in trade and the production and sale of silver idols of the goddess Diana. The temple of Artemis, located in the heart of the city, was prized as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. From the ocean port to the theater to the stadium to the library, Ephesus had so much to offer its inhabitants and visitors. Ephesus was a major cultural center in the ancient world. But because it was a port city it was also the home of a lot of unsavory activity.

As we all know Paul travelled and planted churches all around the eastern end of the Mediterranean. He was spreading the seed. He established the church at Ephesus about 15-20 years after the death of Jesus. So sometime around 50AD. He visited many of his church plants several times and made sure to keep track of what was happening in each of them. He saw his seeds sprout and feed hundreds maybe even thousands. But he seems to have had a special place in his heart for the church in Ephesus because he passed through there several times including his last stay of about 2 1/2 years. It was the longest time Paul spent with any of his church plants.

While Paul preached the gospel here, not all Ephesians were open to hearing his Christian message. Some of the soil was not very receptive to the seed. In the case of Ephesus, he was eventually forced out of the city when the silversmith's union, led by Demetrius, staged a riot because he was preaching a gospel that was impacting the sale of their silver trinkets devoted to the goddess Diana.

Paul was aggressive. Remember that God chose Paul from amongst the aggressive Pharisees who were intent on putting an end to the followers of the 'Way'. God didn't choose Paul because he was an eloquent speaker, he chose him because he was a relentless doer. Paul wasn't easily deterred from his mission. He endured 3 shipwrecks, 8 beatings with lashes or rods, he was stoned, and imprisoned at least 5 times.

On Paul's last trip to Ephesus, he left with the intention of returning but as far as we know his only connection with the church after he left was the letters he sent to Timothy and the letter we call the 'Letter to the Ephesians'. We have been reading from this letter for the last 5 weeks. In this letter we find Paul explaining how God had chosen him and why the new 'Way' was for both Jews and Gentiles alike. The letter explains how Paul is praying for the growth of the church. He tells them he is aware of the troubles within the church there and that there was anger. He was encouraging them to work it out, and he begs them to lead a life worthy of what God had given them.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians presented the gospel to a culture that was marred by injustice and oppression. Just as our world is today. It was an attempt to speak to the brokenness in the world and explain how it could be fixed. Just as it could fix ours today. Ephesians is a letter of encouragement to a growing but fracturing church. It challenges believers to function as the living body of Christ and to work together to eliminate gossip, criticism, jealousy, anger, and bitterness because all these things are barriers to unity within the church. It encourages the Ephesians to feed on Jesus' words for their nourishment. All of these things were exactly what Jesus had been preaching before his crucifixion.

In this letter to the Ephesians, Paul greets the church, he challenges them, and he praises them. He outlines the implications of being a believer. He tells them how they should use their spiritual gifts, and how they must maintain high moral standards. They are told to be careful how they live. To make the most of every opportunity. To not act in a manner that encourages debauchery but to live in a way that gives thanks to God for everything. To recognize what God's will is and not be foolish.

The message of [Ephesians](#) for the church of the day, and today, was, and is, that in Jesus, God had reconciled to himself all things and in so doing he had, and has, enabled humans to be reconciled with one another.

So it is that as part of the letter written to the Ephesians almost 2000 years ago, we find a blueprint for our lives today. Be careful how we. Live wisely. Make the most of the time because there is so much evil in our world. Remember what the will of the Lord is and give thanks to God for all that we have and all that has been given to us.

The food is there for us to eat. Remember that when Jesus was transformed on the mountain, God was heard to say, ‘this is my son, listen to him’. The unspoken intent was not only to listen but to follow, Paul did.

Let me re-read today's 2nd reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My prayer this morning, is that as we leave this place or finish watching this live feed or recorded version of this morning's service, we would open our bibles or go on-line and re-read the ‘Letter to the Ephesians’. There is much there that could and should inform our lives today.

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, 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.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Litany #5)

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord, saying, “**Lord, hear our prayer.**”

Celebrant: Let us pray for the peace of the world; the Lord grant that we may live together in justice and faith.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for this county, and especially for Queen Elizabeth, the Governor General Mary Simon, the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and all in authority; the Lord help them to serve this people according to his holy will.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for children and young people: the Lord guide their growth and development.

All: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for the sick: the Lord deliver them and keep them in his love.

All: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for all who are condemned to exile, prison, harsh treatment, or hard labour, for the sake of justice and truth: the Lord support them and keep them steadfast.

All: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: We remember the prophets, apostles, martyrs, and all who have borne witness to the gospel: the Lord direct our lives in the same spirit of services and sacrifice.

All: Lord, Hear our prayer.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent into our hearts the Spirit of your Son. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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.

DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

NOTICES: Feast of St. Giles – August 29th
Birthdays and Anniversaries

THE BLESSING:

Celebrant: The Lord bless and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace.

All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL: Onward Christian Soldiers

#499 HB

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Assisting Norm Savill today:

Celebrant/Preacher:	Norm Savill
First Reading:	Amy Pauley
Second Reading:	Doug Court
Prayers:	Doug Court
Gospel:	Peter Beckett
Server:	Peter Beckett
Audio/Visual:	David Paradis
Music:	Craig Snider
Chancel Ministry:	Sharon Zacchigna, Marie Lemoine
Sidespersons:	Kevin Lemoine

This morning in our worship we remember in our prayers those of our family and friends who have immediate needs and concerns:

Zielke Family; Amanda Rose; Mark Ralston; Talis & Derek; Darlene Jessem; Jim Tomkins; Ray Wilson; Judy Virtanen; Lawrence Bornais; Roxanne Reid & Family & The Goodyer Family; Garn Mennell; Jane & Ron Lewis; Lorraine Whitwell; Doreen; Alan Proudlove; Anthony Sacco; Sally Rees & her mom; Michelle Sinclair, Mom and Family; Livia & Neil Purcell; Adesh; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Kim; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn

The names below are people in need of ongoing prayers for various reasons so we ask you to please continue to pray for them and their continuing need of God's healing touch and grace:

Sophia L; Jane Tutty; Jean Glionna; Dorothy & Chuck; Kevin Hamann; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Marg Abbott; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Jim Tomkins; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Martin & Stephen Bertelsen; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Archbishop Anne Germond, Metropolitan of Ontario