## ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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# 22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# October 24, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service

## 22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 24, 2021

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PROCESSIONAL: I Heard the Voice

#508 HB

#### THE GREETING:

- Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- People: And also with you.
- Celebrant: Almighty God,
- All: 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.

#### **GLORY TO GOD**

Celebrant:Glory to God in the highest,All: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.

Kyrie: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery, free us from the tyranny of sin and death, and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING: Job 42:1-6,10-17

#### A READING FROM BOOK OF JOB

Then Job answered the LORD: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.'

I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore, I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring.

The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch.

In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

The Word of the Lord.

#### People: Thanks be to God

#### Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22

| Leader:                   | I will bless the LORD at all times;  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>People:</b>            | his praise shall continually be in my mouth.                                       |
| Leader:                   | My soul makes its boast in the LORD;   |
| <b>People:</b>            | let the humble hear and be glad.   |
| Leader:                   | O magnify the LORD with me,  |
| <b>People:</b>            | and let us exalt his name together.  |
| Leader:<br><b>People:</b> | I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.         |
| Leader:                   | Look to him, and be radiant;   |
| <b>People:</b>            | so, your faces shall never be ashamed.   |
| Leader:<br><b>People:</b> | This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. |

| Leader:<br><b>People:</b> | The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.         |
|---------------------------|---|
| Leader:                   | O taste and see that the LORD is good;  |
| <b>People:</b>            | happy are those who take refuge in him.   |
| Leader:<br><b>People:</b> | Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all. |
| Leader:                   | He keeps all their bones;   |
| <b>People:</b>            | not one of them will be broken.   |
| Leader:                   | Evil brings death to the wicked,  |
| <b>People:</b>            | and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.                                 |
| Leader:                   | The LORD redeems the life of his servants;  |
| <b>People:</b>            | none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.                             |

#### SECOND READING: Hebrews 7:23-28

#### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself.

For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

The Word of the Lord.

#### People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:46-52

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

#### People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you."

So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The Gospel of Christ.

#### People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

#### **SERMON:** Fr. Simon

# Faith carries us when the stuffing has been hit out of us – Blind Bartimaeus Job 42:1-6, Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

In all the complexity of the book of Job – which really doesn't give a reasonable explanation of suffering at all – there are entire lists of characters who tell poor Job how he is meant to suffer. It is far more of an account of how not to suffer (from the perspective of Job's friends) and an account of faithfulness in the midst of suffering on the part of Job. The story of Bartimaeus, who Mark describes as a "blind beggar" in his account of the story of Christ, is one of those stories. It has a clear indication of somebody being told how to exercise their faith and actually is a story of enthusiastic persistence.

#### **Blind Beggar Bartimaeus**

Labels socially peg us and tell us how we are meant to act and give others a lens through which to measure our actions. Bartimaeus had a label – blind beggar – that told us as much about his condition as it did about his social status. In Jesus' day to suffer any form of physical disability was profoundly limiting – it often meant you were condemned to a life of dependency on the mercy of others and you were seen as somebody who had nothing to contribute to the life of others. Bartimaeus was one such individual. The loss of his sight meant he had to resort to begging in-order to exist.

Archeologists tell us that there was a "new" city of Jericho in Jesus' day. It was a couple of miles away from the original one in the vast plain formed by the Jordan River as it flowed south into the Dead Sea. It was a day's walk uphill to Bethlehem and Jerusalem – the direction that Jesus and his disciples were travelling. You see they are slowly moving south along the Jordan Valley from Caesarea – which was a large Roman Garrison town on the shores of Lake Galilee – and they are heading to Jerusalem for the week before Passover. We have just had the Sermon on the Plain (otherwise the Sermon on the Mount in the first few chapters of Matthew's Gospel) and Jesus is anticipating his crucifixion. This, in fact, is the last healing Jesus does in Mark's Gospel before he enters Jerusalem for the last time.

Jesus and the disciples are just leaving Jericho as they prepare to walk up the Jordan Heights to Jerusalem. As they and a large crowd of followers are leaving the city, they walk past blind, begging Bartimaeus sitting on the roadside. As the crowd passes Bartimaeus it suddenly dawns on him who this is – Jesus of Nazareth – the rabbi from the little north slum town who has spent the last three years of his life offering hope and healing to the destitute, rejected, maimed and misplaced folk of Israel. His reputation has preceded him even to this dusty byway.

So Bartimaeus cries out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" In Mark's Gospel Bartimaeus preempts the crowds of Palm Sunday proclaiming Jesus the king in the line of David. But he has a particular request, "Have mercy on me!" To a Jewish person in Jesus' day mercy had a particular ring to it – don't give me what I deserve, rather show me mercy. The common understanding of people in Jesus' day was that suffering was a consequence of the wrong you or your parents did. People would have said, "You deserve to be blind Bartimaeus because you or your parents did wrong." In that worldview Bartimaeus' plea makes perfect sense, "I know I have done wrong, but show me mercy by taking this suffering from me."

So how did the crowd respond? Mark tells us that "Many in the crowd ordered him to be quiet." "Oh, shut up Bartimaeus, you deserve this." "Live out your definition buddy – Bartimaeus the blind beggar – because that is who you are and that is what you deserve." But Bartimaeus is persistent and cries out even louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

That last call of desperation stops Jesus in his tracks. He turns to those around, "Call him here." Some in the crowd call poor Bartimaeus over. They say to him in an encouraging voice, "Take heart (buddy); get up, (Jesus) is calling you." He is clearly enthusiastic. Mark tells us that he threw off his cloak, sprang up and came to Jesus.

Here is a guy who - by every measure - is responding inappropriately as far as other people are concerned. Not only does he expect mercy when he should just suck it up and live with his lot in life, but he is persistent and loud. In addition, when some idiot gives him a glimmer of hope, he discards the one piece of shelter he does own and goes over the top with enthusiasm. What does he think he is up to?

In contrast Jesus turns his full focus on this man Bartimaeus and asks him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Isn't that a dumb question? Mark has just told us he is a blind beggar – isn't that obvious to you. But that is not the point. Here is a man who has always been told what he needs – "shut up", "live with your lot in life", "suck it up" – and here is somebody who is finally asking him what he wants. The writer Mark makes it plain that Bartimaeus is blind – that is just as obvious to Jesus as anybody else – but now he is asked. "Rabbi, let me see again." Jesus' response is so amazingly simple, "Go; your faith has made you well." And, in typical fashion in Mark's Gospel, "immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way" (vs. 52).

#### Conclusion

God is constantly asking us, "What do you want me to do for you?" Our difficulty is that we might not hear God say that because we are so used to the labels that define us: non-church-goer, non-believer, weak faith, not deserving, unfaithful, beyond the pale, without hope, inappropriate, too busy. Those labels make us deaf to what God is saying to us because they come with a whole set of assumptions about what our "appropriate" response is meant to be – "you don't deserve this", "why would God listen to you?", "God's got better things to do", "What makes you think God is interested in you?", "Oh shut up and don't step out of line!"

We might be the ones who long to hear, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." Actually, that is what we should always hear, because faith is not about what we deserve but about the mercy, compassion and grace of God. The echo of that question can be heard each time we come forward for baptism or the Eucharist, each time we think about who we are and what life is about, each time the wheels fall off and life seems to drag us along a course we were hoping not to take, each time we contemplate our own mortality or consider trying to articulate what is going on to God, each time life goes right and we experience those moments of profound joy, each time we sit watching a sunset or staring out across a vast landscape covered in snow. It echoes through the deep canyons of our being and whispers to us in the silence. If only we would listen. Pray God that we hear those encouraging words, "Take heart, get up he is calling you." And as we respond to those words of hope may we hear the faith called out of us, "What do you want me to do for you?" And each time – as we articulate our need - may we find God restoring our true humanity and removing the labels that bind. Amen.

People: Amen

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

#### THE APOSTLE'S CREED

- Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
- People: 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.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (#6)**

(As we stand in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

| Officiant: | For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.                     |
|------------|---|
| People:    | Lord, have mercy.   |
| Officiant: | For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself, let us pray to the Lord.    |
| People:    | Lord, have mercy.   |
| Officiant: | For our families and friends, that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord.         |
| People:    | Lord, have mercy.   |
| Officiant: | For those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord. |
| People:    | Lord, have mercy.   |
| Officiant: | For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.                 |
| People:    | Lord, have mercy.   |
| Officiant: | For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.                                  |
| People:    | Lord, have mercy.   |

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

#### (Silence is kept.)

- Celebrant: Most merciful God,
- People: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.
- Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

#### THE PEACE

Celebrant:The peace of the Lord be always with you.People:And also with you.

#### THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN: Morning Has Broken

#3 HB

#### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

All: God of constant love, you have guided your people in all times and ages. May we who offer you our praise today always be ready to follow where you lead; we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 1**

- 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 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.

#### 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.

#### **BREAKING OF BREAD #3**

Celebrant: Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

All: So, may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

#### LAMB OF GOD:

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace

#### THE COMMUNION

#### **COMMUNION HYMNS:**

| Let Us Break Bread | #48 SB |
|--------------------|--------|
| Pass It On         | #36 SB |

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: God of constant love, you have guided your people in all times and ages. May we who offer you our praise today always be ready to follow where you lead; we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE DOXOLOGY

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.

#### THE BLESSING:

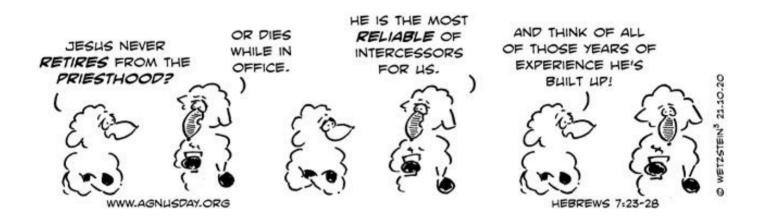
Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

People: Amen.

#### **RECESSIONAL:** Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus

#### THE DISMISSAL:

Leader:Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**People:Thanks be to God.** 



#### Assisting Rev. Simon today:

| Celebrant/Preacher: | The Rev. Simon Bell             |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bread:              | Fr. Simon                       |
| First Reading:      | Doug Court                      |
| Second Reading:     | Beth Steffler                   |
| Prayers:            | Margaret Paradis                |
| Gospel:             | Peter Beckett                   |
| Server:             | Beth Steffler                   |
| Audio/Visual:       | David Paradis                   |
| Music:              | Craig Snider                    |
| Chancel Ministry:   | Sharon Zacchigna, Marie Lemoine |
| Sidespersons:       | John Snow, Kevin Lemoine        |

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

Mark Ralston; Pam Rees; Livia & Neil Purcell; Peter, Linda and the Court Family; The Ellis Family; Farrell & Frances McGinnis; Sophia L.; Jackson; Sally Smith; John & Terry; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Dave Lawrence; Valerie; Stephen and Martin Bertelsen; Alvin Maynard; Amanda Rose; Darlene Jessem; Jim Tomkins; Doreen; Livia & Neil Purcell; Adesh; Brenda Jessem; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean

# 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:

Carrie Snow; Sheri Scott; Kim; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wally Raymond; Christine; Audrey Moody; Lynda Raye; Ray Wilson; Garn Mennell; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Michelle Sinclair and mom; Jane & Ron Lewis; Cecilia Mowat; Laura Johnston; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Fr. Murray; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

#### In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Extra-Provincial Churches

#### In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Toronto East Deanery