

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 25th, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service

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10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PROCESSIONAL: *Here in this Place New Light is Streaming*

#465 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: **O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass-through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat."

But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So, he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, "They shall eat and have some left."

He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM: 145:10-18

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:1-21

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so, they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also, the fish, as much as they wanted.

When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So, they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified.

But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer In-the-Midst of Suffering

2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14:1-7; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus is full of prayers and this prayer is specifically for a church in-the-midst of suffering. It gives us a glimpse into how Paul thought of suffering and how we deal with it as followers of Jesus. It gives us some practical help in praying for others and ourselves in-the-midst of suffering.

Paul pastored the church in Ephesus for two years (a long time for Paul considering how short most of his stays were) during his second journey when he went to Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). It was a church that Paul grew to love and longed to return to. It was a church that gave him shelter and was at the core of his ministry in the area.

Starting in Ephesians 3 Paul reflects upon his own situation. He is now imprisoned in Rome and waiting to be executed for his faith. He is reflected upon the wonderful privilege he has had in being a messenger of the grace of God even if it has meant him coming to this point of losing his life for his faith. In essence he recognizes that he is losing his life so that others – including those in Ephesus – might know the grace of God. So, he writes, "I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my suffering for you; they are your glory" (vs.13) and then he states, "For this reason I bow my knee before the Father" (vs.14).

Rather than seeing suffering as the end of his ministry, he sees it as a spur to further his vocation and, in this case, through prayer. Rather than seeing suffering as the final word on the hope of the grace of God, he sees it as a place of engagement to know the love of God. He prays for three things for the church in Ephesus: for strength, courage and knowledge of the love of God.

Strength

"I pray that, according to the riches of His (God's) glory, He (God) may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit" (vs.16). Faith is about that sense of inner resolve – the fortitude to get it done in spite of the odds of what is stacked against us. The church in Ephesus is watching their beloved pastor waiting to be executed and anticipating their own suffering under the Roman Empire. Paul prays that God would give them that deep inner strength – a resolve through the power of God to continue in their faith. That in the face of suffering that they would not give up their faith or give in to discouragement. Rather, that in knowing the presence of God through the Holy Spirit (the glory of God) that they would find that deep inner strength to persevere.

Suffering sucks the inner resolve out of us. It drains us of the inner resources we need. It makes us weary and ready to just give up so that we do not have the ability to rise up and fight another day. Importantly, Paul is not praying that they might find their own inner strength, as if they should "pull their socks up" or "suck it up buttercup". This inner strength is about when we have run out of our own inner resolve or our own inner capacity to face whatever life throws at us. This inner strength is found in the grace of God that reaches far deeper than personal resolve. This is the inner strength that comes from God when we are beyond finding anything in ourselves. God, when I have reached the end of myself, let me find you there in-the-midst of my suffering.

Courage

In vs.13 Paul prays that they might not “lose heart” due to his suffering and “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love” (vs.17). We think of the heart as the seat of emotion and then think of love as an emotional state. People in the ancient Hebrew world thought of the stomach or guts as being the seat of emotion. In contrast the heart was the seat of the will and the place of resolve and, thus by implication, the place of courage. To en-courage others was to put the heart back into them that they may have courage. In essence Paul is prayer that, through faith in Christ, that they may have the heart/courage put back in them.

Dealing with life in-the-midst of suffering requires so much courage. We need courage to face each day as the odds are stacked against us. We need courage to face ourselves, those things that cause our suffering and seem to have such a power over us as well as the lack of clear answers or certain outcomes we hope for. We need courage to grieve our losses and to face an uncertain future. We need courage to get up and face another day.

True courage comes from knowing we are loved. He prays that they may know courage as they are “rooted and grounded in love” (vs.17). A root is something that draws sustenance from that which it is grounded in. Love or compassion – to face the passion or suffering with another – is the soil of our courage because we know others are there with us. And, importantly, Christ suffers with us as he enters in our suffering and feeds our courage.

Knowledge of the love of God

This brings us to Paul’s third prayer, “to know the love (compassion) of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (vs.19). The Greek word that we have for love is agape or “sacrificial love”. We think of that love in the contemporary church as being about atonement – Christ giving himself for us so that we might know salvation. But the early church thought of it as “suffering with another” – hence our word compassion. Compassion is the suffering of Christ in his Passion on Good Friday extended into him entering-into our own suffering with us. Biblically God suffers with us, through us, for us and often in-spite of us.

Here Paul prays that we may know that love/compassion of Christ – that Christ suffers with us – in a way that is beyond knowing. It is one thing saying I know you – in the sense of being aware of you – but quite another saying that we are inseparable in our intimacy in-the-midst of suffering. That we would be enveloped by the suffering Jesus and carried in his embrace. That when others look at us in-the-midst of our suffering that they would see the fullness of God present in us, through us and around us. That we would be so filled with the fullness of God and God’s compassion for us that we would become undifferentiated.

Conclusion

There are times when we pray for others in-the-midst of their suffering when we seem to run out of words or the ability to pray sensibly or coherently. Paul, in praying for those who suffered with him, prayed that God would give them an inner strength and courage to face each day and that, in the midst their suffering, they would know the loving embrace of a God who suffers with us. This is from a man who knew suffering and lived it. This is from a man who came to the end of his own strength and felt discouraged.

But Paul’s prayer also gives us an avenue into knowing how we are going to get through our own suffering. That when we do not have the strength or inner resolve to face another day, God’s Holy Spirit is there to give us that inner strength we so desperately need. That when we do not have the inner

courage to face another surgery, another doctor's appointment, another legal or financial battle, another family conflict or fearful situation that Christ's inner presence puts the heart back into us – encourages us – as we face life's challenges again. And when we are pushed to that point of feeling abandoned – as if we are facing all of this on our own – Christ enters-into our suffering (he has compassion) and embraces us. As Paul reminds us in Romans 8 “I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, not things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, not depth, nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

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 (#2)

(Let us pray with confidence to the Lord, saying, “Lord hear our prayer.”)

Officiant: O Lord, guard and direct your Church in the way of unity, service, and praise.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Set free all who are bound by fear and despair.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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: *We Praise You O God*

#342 HB

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All: God of grace, accept all we offer you this day, as we look toward the glory you have promised. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3

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: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; you are the source of light and life for all your creation, you made us in your own image, and call us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Therefore, we praise you, joining 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: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, Holy Eucharist 199 a death he freely accepted, 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." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 200 Holy Eucharist In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are 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 #2

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: We, being many, are one body, for well all share in the one bread.

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:

Jesus the Joy of Loving Hearts
O God Unseen

#70 HB

#52 HB

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: God of grace, we have received the memorial of the death and resurrection of your Son. May your love, poured into us, bring us to your promises. We ask this in the name of our Redeemer Jesus Christ. 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.

REMINDERS: Birthdays/Anniversaries/Announcements

RECESSIONAL: *Blessed Assurance*

#66 SB

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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Assisting Rev. Simon today:

- Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Simon Bell
- Bread: Fr. Simon
- First Reading: Beth Steffler
- Second Reading: Kevin Hamann
- Prayers: Margaret Paradis
- Gospel: Margaret Paradis
- Server: Peter Beckett
- Audio/Visual: David Paradis
- Music: Craig Snider
- Chancel Ministry: Margaret Paradis, Michelle Sinclair
- Sidespersons: Kevin LeMoine, Kevin Hamann

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

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; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Kim; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Sherrie O.; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Theresa & Pete; 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:

Diocese of Durham (England)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Anglican Communion and the Archbishop of Canterbury