

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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*Wednesday, May 19, 2021*

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# Seventh Easter Wednesday Service

May 19, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Celebrant: Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

**People: We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.**

Celebrant: God has claimed us as his own.

**People: He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.**

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*I will not leave you desolate, says the Lord; I will come to you.*

John 14.18

## RESPONSORY

Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting? Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Death is swallowed up in victory. The trumpet will sound, and the dead shall be raised. Where, O death, is your sting? We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed. Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?

## THE PSALMS

### Psalm 101

I will sing of loyalty and of justice; to you, O LORD, I will sing.

I will study the way that is blameless. When shall I attain it? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; I will not set before my eyes anything that is base. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.

Perverseness of heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil.

One who secretly slanders a neighbor I will destroy. A haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not tolerate.

I will look with favour on the faithful in the land, so that they may live with me; whoever walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.

No one who practises deceit shall remain in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue in my presence.

Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked in the land, cutting off all evildoers from the city of the LORD.

**People:            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.**

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **THE READINGS**

#### **A READING FROM HEBREWS 7:1-17**

This 'King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him'; and to him Abraham apportioned 'one-tenth of everything'. His name, in the first place, means 'king of righteousness'; next he is also king of Salem, that is, 'king of peace'. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest for ever.

See how great he is! Even Abraham the patriarch gave him a tenth of the spoils. And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their kindred, though these also are descended from Abraham. But this man, who does not belong to their ancestry, collected tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had received the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. In the one case, tithes are received by those who are mortal; in the other, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

Now if perfection had been attainable through the levitical priesthood—for the people received the law under this priesthood—what further need would there have been to speak of another priest arising according to the order of Melchizedek, rather than one according to the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. Now the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek, one who has become a priest, not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent, but through the power of an indestructible life. For it is attested of him, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

The word of the Lord.

**People:            Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE 10:17-24

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

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'

Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.'

The Gospel of Christ.

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

### REFLECTION

#### REJOICE IN FAITHFULNESS

Each week throughout this pandemic we have had a team of folk - including Norm Savill, Pat Broomes, Doug Court, Amy Pauley and Nicole Richie - writing daily devotions that are then emailed out and posted on our website. I have used them for my routine of daily readings and have found them very inspiring and thought provoking. Yesterday Pat Broomes wrote her devotional on the first half of Luke 10 where Jesus sent out this group of 70 disciples in pairs. Pat, rather succinctly, pointed out that irrespective of the reception they received – whether offered welcome or hospitality or rejected – they had an equal duty to share the kingdom with those they encountered.

It reminded me of all those wonderful passages in the Hebrew Scriptures that reinforce the idea that God is compassionate, generous, gracious and bountiful to all. They, of course, are counter-pointed by the frustrated voice of the psalmists and echoed in Job and the wisdom literature, that it is not fair. But I, like the 70, needed to be reminded that my task is simply to be faithful to God in sharing the compassionate, generous, gracious and bountiful nature of the kingdom of God irrespective of the response I get back.

That reminder needs to be there when I feel like or told that I am being taken advantage of, being treated without due respect and gratitude, been taken for a ride or being outright rejected. That reminder needs to be there in order to help me get perspective that as much I am treated this way when I live out the kingdom, it is ultimate God who these folk are taking advantage of, treating without due respect and gratitude, taking for a ride or outright rejecting. You and I are simply the messenger of the kingdom of God and the kingdom's representatives here on earth and our task is simply to be faithful.

Amazingly for me, the “seventy returned with joy”. Of course, they were over-joyed because of what they saw and experienced and were capable of – “in your name even the demons submitted to us!” And while Jesus affirms their experience – “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightening” – and reinforces the idea that they are capable of even more - “I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you” – he wants to shift their focus to the true underlying values. “Nevertheless ... rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (vs.20). In other words, rejoice in the fact that your reward is for being faithful, not because of the things you do.

Way too often in Christian ministry we acknowledge those who “do great things for God” as if there is something distinct to their ability that needs to be valued. In doing so we place “achievement” above faithfulness and “accomplishment” above character. Yet we are repeatedly reminded that as accomplished we might be and amazing as it might be for God to work through us to achieve these things, the true measure is our faithfulness and the person we become in living out or embodying the kingdom of God.

That faithfulness is evident to me in the person who week-by-week, month-by-month, year-by-year faithfully feeds the hungry, cares for the sick, befriends the lonely, cloths the naked, visits the prisoner, gives water to the thirsty, assists at nursing home services, steps in when somebody’s home needs cleaning, reads the Scriptures and leads the prayers at services, sings in the choir, sets the altar, sits at the sound desk and records the services, mows the lawn or does repairs around the church. Each of these actions – as small as they seem to us – talk of embodying the kingdom of God when done with compassion, generosity, graciousness and bountifulness. It is then that we see the kingdom of God embodied in faithful character of the saints. Amen

**People: Amen**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Hear, O Israel**

**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.**

### **INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS**

**Celebrant:** Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, saying,  
**People:** **‘Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.’**

**Celebrant:** May we live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.  
**People:** **Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant:** May all people receive the good news of Christ’s victory.  
**People:** **Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant:** May those born to new life in the waters of baptism know the power of Christ’s resurrection.  
**People:** **Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: May those who suffer pain and anguish find healing and peace in the compassion of Christ.

**People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: May we be united in Christ's undying love with all who have passed through the gates of death.

**People: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.**

Today we remember Joyce Antony and her family with the passing of her sister Dulcie in India and we pray for Gail Noseworthy and family with the passing of Dave.

**People: Amen.**

## **THE COLLECT**

Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People: Amen**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Celebrant: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**People: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL:**

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **NOTICES**

### **BLESSING:**

The Lord bless us 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.

**People: Amen.**

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**Assisting Rev. Simon today:**

Celebrant/Preacher:       The Rev. Simon Bell  
Video:                       Simon Bell/David Paradis

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

The Noseworthy Family; Joyce Antony & Family; Broomes Family; Adesh; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Cecilia Mowat; Tanya Bowskill; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Kim; Jeremiah Sullivan; AJ; Dorothy & Chuck; People of St. Vincent; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Adara; Jean Glionna; Sarah & Dee; Kaus; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Sherrie O.; Jane Tutty; Bill and Ann Canning; Tanya North; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Theresa & Pete; Jaxon Croft; Ron & Jane Lewis; Sean; Sophia L; 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:**

Marg Thomas & Family; Kevin Hamann; Beth Steffler & Family; Michelle Sinclair's Mom & Dad; Kevin & Danielle Sullivan; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Laura Johnston & Family; Amy P. & Family; Lyon's Family; Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Mark & Winnie; Staff and Residence at Roberta Place; Brian W.; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Marg Abbott; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Garn Mennell; Margaret & 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 Diocese of California (USA)

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

The Postulancy Committee