

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Wednesday, March 31, 2021

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Audio/Visual	David Paradis	

HOLY WEEK - Wednesday Service

March 31, 2021

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: Lord, open our lips,

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Celebrant: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us. 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: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let us worship.

By this will all know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13.35

THE PSALMS

PSALM 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O LORD, make haste to help me!

Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.

Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

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 THE BOOK OF HEBREWS 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross,

disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN 13:21-32

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples--the one whom Jesus loved--was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Make haste to help me

Psalm 70 is a very neat short Psalm that is very direct and apt for its central theme – “make haste to help me.” Both its brief structure and its direct content serve as an SOS prayer that carries with it a sense of urgency for immediate resolve. This is not a prayer with details of how badly the Psalmist has been treated or flowery expansive language or images or detail. Rather it strikes right to the heart of the matter from the get-go and simply reinforces the same message in the introduction and conclusion, “hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!”

Within that urgency are two descriptions – one of those “who seek my life” and the other of “those who love your salvation.” The intention of the prayer is that those who “who seek” the Psalmist’s life and desire to “hurt” him might be put to shame and confusion and be turned back and brought to dishonour. It is really a prayer that those who seek harm might be thwarted in their intention and might know justice. The intention is not one of revenge, but rather one of realisation for all the wrong they have done. That is captured most profoundly in the middle verse (vs.3), “Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.” It carries the sentiment that those who wish me harm, who seek to hurt me or seek my life, may realise their wrong and recoil in shame and the recognition of their own evil intention.

In contrast the Psalmist prays (vs.4) that those who “seek you” might “rejoice and be glad in you” and that those who “love your salvation” may say for “evermore, ‘God is great!’” It is important that we recognise the

intention of the Psalmist in asserting that we do not simply seek God for happiness' sake in and of its self, but rather that our joy and gladness is actually found in God and the work of God in our lives. The same is true of the counterpoint to that in the second half of the verse, that we can proclaim that God is great because we know the saving/rescuing work of God in our lives. In this sense, God is both the source of our salvation and our joy. God is both the source of our rescue and our gladness. That same sense of dependence upon God is contained in Hebrews 12:2 where the writer refers to Jesus as both the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith" – the one who goes ahead of us to lead the way and the one who brings all things to completion. The one who bookends our rescue by initiating it and bringing it to resolve/completion at the end. In that is our true hope.

Psalm 70 is traditionally used on Wednesday of Holy Week because of the echo in vs. 3 – "Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame" and Mark's account of the crucifixion, especially Mark 15:29 - It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him."

But it has added echoes in the Gospel reading for today in the contrast between Judas as the one who "seeks my life" and who "desires to hurt me" and those who remained faithful "who seek you" and "love your salvation". Both are looking/seeking and both have a desire – one seeks Jesus life and desires harm, while the others seek God and desire salvation.

As we reflect upon our own life this Wednesday of Holy Week might we be counted amongst those who seek God and desire salvation. And in doing so might we find in God a capacity to rejoice and be glad. And in the urgency of our lives when we might only have the energy and capacity for hurried and urgent prayers of salvation may we know that God hears us and is – as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith – faithful to the very end.

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

Litany 8

By your incarnation and your birth in poverty, by your baptism, your fasting, and your trials in the desert, O Lord, hear our prayer; **Kyrie eleison** *or* **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: By your agony in the garden, by your cross and passion, by your death and burial, by your resurrection and ascension, and by the gift of your Holy Spirit, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Celebrant: In times of trouble and in times of well-being, at the hour we die and on the day of your glory, O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: Kyrie eleison.

Celebrant: Deliver us from war and violence, from hardness of heart and from contempt of your love and your promises; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: Kyrie eleison.

Celebrant: Enlighten our lives with your word, that in it we may find our way and our hope; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: Kyrie eleison.

Celebrant: Assist your people in every land, govern them in peace and justice, defend them from the enemies of life; O Lord, hear our prayer;

People: Kyrie eleison.

THE COLLECT

Lord God, your Son our Saviour gave his body to be whipped and turned his face for men to spit upon. Give your servants grace to accept suffering for his sake, confident of the glory that will be revealed, through Jesus Christ our Lord 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:

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.

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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:

Adara; All our St. Margaret Families during this Holy Week; Jean Glionna; Sarah & Dee; Kaus; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Bobby Paradis & Family; Margaret & David Paradis; Marg Thomas & Family; Lyon's Family; Jodine; Lynda Raye; Frank Kilravey; Rhonda; Sherrie O.; Jane Tutty; Edison's Family & his Teacher who has Covid; Bill and Ann Canning; Tanya North; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Theresa & Pete; Jaxon Croft; Ron & Jane Lewis; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; Sean; Kevin H.; 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:

Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Mark & Winnie; Staff and Residence at Roberta Place; Brian W.; Cecilia Mowat; Jen Galicinski; Sheri Scott; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Amy P. & Family; Marg Abbott; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Michelle & Ian Sinclair; 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 Barrackpore (India)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Holy Week.