

***Welcome!***  
to  
***St. John the Evangelist  
Anglican Church***

***Liturgy for the Season of Lent***



**Sunday, March 15, 2026 – 11:00 am**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Eucharist**

*Prelude*

*Welcome to Worship at St. John's*

*May you sense God's presence and pleasure  
as you worship with us today!*

***The Gathering of the Community***

**Gathering Hymn**     *Surely It Is God Who Saves Me*  
*As you are able, please stand.*

**361**

**The Greeting**

*Priest* Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

In this time and place, we gather on the ancestral and  
unceded lands of the Neutral, the Mississauga and  
Haudenosaunee peoples.

*All* **From many places and peoples we come to this  
house of prayer.**

**Prayer of Preparation**

*All* **Almighty God,  
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.

**Kyrie**

*(Tune: Dvorak)*

*Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison (2x)*

*Christe, Christe, eleison (2x)*

*Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison (2X)*

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Priest* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
through the waters of baptism  
your Son has made us children of light.  
May we ever walk in his light  
and show forth your glory in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

#### **The Readings**

*1 Samuel 16:1-13*

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came

to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 23*

*The leader will read to the diamond ♦,  
the people will respond with the words that follow.*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; ♦  
therefore can I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦  
and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He shall refresh my soul ♦  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's  
sake.

<sup>4</sup> Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death,  
I will fear no evil; ♦  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦  
you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life, ♦  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
And shall be forever. Amen**

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

<sup>8</sup> For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.  
Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all  
that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing

to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

*As you are able, please stand and remain standing  
for the reading of the Gospel.*

**Gradual Hymn**      *Your Hand, O God, Has Guided*      **444**

*All*      The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*All*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*John 9:1-41*

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went

and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man

is a sinner.”<sup>25</sup> He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup> They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”<sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.”<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.”<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of Christ.

*All*      **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon**

*After the Sermon, silence is kept for reflection.*

**Swahili Hymn**

*Sioshwi dhambi zangu  
(My Sins Are Not Washed Away)*

*1. Sioshwi dhambi zangu,  
Bila damu yake Yesu.  
Hapendezewi Mungu,  
Bila damu yake Yesu.*

*Hakuna kabisa  
Dawa ya makosa  
Ya kututakasa,  
Ila damu yake Yesu.*

*2. La kunisafi sina  
Ila damu yake Yesu.  
Wala udhuru tena,  
Ila damu yake Yesu.*

*3. Sipati patanishwa,  
Bila damu yake Yesu.  
Hukumu yanitisha,  
Bila damu yake Yesu.*

*4. Sipati tumaini,  
Bila damu yake Yesu.  
Wema wala amani,  
Bila damu yake Yesu.*

*5. Yashinda ulimwengu,  
Hiyo damu yake Yesu.  
Na kutufikisha juu,  
Hiyo damu yake Yesu.*

<sup>6</sup>. *Twaimba: Utukufu  
Una damu yake Yesu.  
Milele twaisifu,  
Hiyo damu yake Yesu.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*As you are able, please stand for the Creed.*

Let us confess the faith of our baptism together,  
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,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

*Please remain standing, be seated, or kneel  
for the Prayers, as you prefer.*

## The Prayers of the People

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Holy One.

In our Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Kenya; for all the Bishops and leaders of our Church. In the Diocese of Niagara, we pray for St. John, Nassagaweya, Campbellville, the clergy, and the people of that parish. For Rev. Allison, and all the clergy and people who share in the ministry of this place. In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for the following people and their families:

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,  
let us pray to the Holy One.

God of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For the mission of the Church,  
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel  
to the ends of the earth, in our community giving thanks for  
those who volunteer and offer leadership to Wellspring  
Cancer Support Group.

let us pray to the Holy One.

God of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For those preparing for baptism,  
and for their teachers and sponsors,

let us pray to the Holy One.

God of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For peace in the world, remembering the people of Ukraine,  
Gaza and the West Bank, East Africa, Kashechewan, Iran,  
and all others caught in conflict, violence, and disaster.

We pray for the people of Cuba now facing shortages of energy impacting all aspects of their lives. That a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples,

let us pray to the Holy One.

God of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer, remembering those who are close to us, and those who are ill: those on the parish prayer list at St. John's, as well as those on the parish prayer list at Holy Trinity Chippawa.

Especially in these winter months, we remember our neighbours in need of shelter, warmth and food. For all in need experience of God's comfort and strength this day, let us pray to the Holy One.

God of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected,

let us pray to the Holy One.

God of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For those whom we have injured or offended,

let us pray to the Holy One.

God of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,

let us pray to the Holy One.

God of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness ...

let us pray to the Holy One.

God of compassion,

**All in your mercy hear us.**

Loving God,

in your goodness

you have taught us to come close to you in penitence

with prayer, fasting and generosity;

accept our Lenten discipline,

and when we fall by our weakness,

raise us up by your unfailing mercy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty

days he was tempted. Let us confess our sins

remembering before God the times when we have fallen

from temptation into sin.

*Silence is kept.*

Wash away all my iniquity

and cleanse me from my sin:

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Against you, you only have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight:

Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me:  
Lord, have mercy.

*cf Psalm 51*

**All Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest* May almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you your sins,  
and bring you to everlasting life.

**All Amen.**

*As you are able, please stand.*

### ***The Peace***

*Priest* Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

*Romans 5:1,2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please greet one another with a sign of peace  
in the name of the Lord.*

## ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

### **The Preparation of the Gifts**

**Offertory Hymn**

*O Christ, the Healer  
(Tune 628)*

**291**

*As you are able, please stand.*

### **The Prayer over the Gifts**

God of light,  
Your Word brings to us a new vision of your glory.  
Accept our offering of praise and thanksgiving,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*All* **Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
*All* **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good...  
*The celebrant continues.*  
...for ever praising you and saying:

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **Hymn 722**  
**Lord God of power and might,**  
**heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,**  
**hosanna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is he who comes,**  
**who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,**  
**hosanna in the highest.**

*Please be seated or kneel, as you prefer.*

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,...  
*The celebrant continues.*  
...Therefore, Father, according to his command,

*All* **we remember his death,** **Hymn 724**  
**we proclaim his resurrection,**

***we await his coming in glory;***

*The celebrant continues.*

...by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, almighty God,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let's pray together now as Jesus taught us:

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your  
name, your king-dom come, your will be done on  
earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our  
dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give  
those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the  
time of trial and de-liv-er us from e-vil, for the  
king-dom, the pow'r and the glo-ry are yours,  
now and for ev-er.

David Haas ©1986

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

This is the Body of Christ:  
Behold what you are,  
become what you receive.

**All Amen.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*All* **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**

*The celebrant invites the people to share in communion.*

This is the table, not merely of the church, but of Christ.  
It is made ready for those who love him,  
and for those who want to love him more.

So come, whether you have much faith or little;  
have tried to follow, or are afraid you've failed.

Come, because it is His will  
that those who want to meet him might meet him here.  
These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please come forward now to be served Communion.*

*If you wish to receive communion, please put out your hands.*

*If you prefer not to receive communion but would like to receive a  
blessing, please cross and place your hands over your chest.*

*Please note that gluten-free wafers are available. Simply indicate that  
when you open your hands to receive the host.*

*The common cup will be offered but you are free to decline drinking  
from it. Those unable to come forward will be served in their pew.*

**Communion Hymn** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* **520**

**Prayer after Communion**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Gracious God,  
through your goodness  
we receive your Son in word and sacrament.  
May we always have faith in him,  
Jesus Christ the Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Glory to God,  
*All* **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 Dismissal***

#### **The Blessing**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross,  
and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the Announcements*

### **Announcements**

**Sending Hymn**

*Be Thou My Vision  
Please stand as you are able.*

**505**

### **The Dismissal**

Go in the peace of Christ.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## *Postlude*

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### ***Introduction to the Season of Lent***

*Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.*

*Now is the healing time decreed  
for sins of heart and word and deed,  
when we in humble fear record  
the wrong that we have done the Lord.*

*(Latin, before 12th century)*

*As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind*

*them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.*

*Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. "Gloria in excelsis" is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetareor, Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent, providing another break from austerity.*

*As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known.*

*Common Worship: Times and Seasons,  
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