

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

Liturgy for the Season of Lent



Sunday, March 22, 2026 – 11:00 am
Fifth 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 *Through All the Changing Scenes of Life* **501**
As you are able, please stand.

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,

Your Son came into the world

to free us all from sin and death.

Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,

that we may be raised to new life in Christ,

and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130

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

¹ Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice; ♦
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

² If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, ♦
O Lord, who could stand?

³ But there is forgiveness with you, ♦
so that you shall be feared.

⁴ I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; ♦
in his word is my hope.

⁵ My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning, ♦
more than the night watch for the morning.

⁶ O Israel, wait for the Lord, ♦
for with the Lord there is mercy;

⁷ With him is plenteous redemption ♦
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**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**

Romans 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of

righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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 *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* **179**
(Verses 1-5, 6F)

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

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

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus

answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go

out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Sermon **Rev. Allison Courey**

After the Sermon, silence is kept for reflection.

Swahili Hymn

*Sioni haya kwa Bwana
(I am not Ashamed of the Lord)*

*1. Sioni haya kwa Bwana
Kwake nitang'ara!
Mti wake sitakana,
Ni neno imara!*

*Msalaba ndio asili ya mema,
Nikatua mzigo hapo;
Nina uzima, furaha daima,
Njoni kafurahini papo.*

*2. Kama kiti chake vivyo
Ni yake ahadi,
Alivyowekewa navyo
Kamwe havirudi.*

*3. Bwana wangu, tena Mungu
Ndilo lake jina!
Hataacha roho yangu
Wala kunikana.*

*4. Atakiri langu jina,
Mbele za Babaye,
Anipe pahali tena
Mbinguni nikae.*

Shared from Tenzi za Rohoni app.

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 Korea; for all the Bishops and leaders of our Church. In the Diocese of Niagara, we pray for St. Paul, Norval, 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 the Canadian
Centre for Child Protection,
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,
East Africa, Kashechewan, Iran and the entire region of the
Middle East, Venezuela, Cuba, and all others caught in
conflict, violence, and disaster. 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 lists at St John's and Holy
Trinity. Especially in these winter months, we remember

our neighbours lacking shelter, warmth and food. For all in need 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 *King of Glory, King of Peace*

345

As you are able, please stand.

The Prayer over the Gifts

Giver of life,
your Son has destroyed the power of death
for all those who believe in him.
Accept all we offer you this day
and strengthen us in faith and hope;
through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all the living.

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 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* **649**

Prayer after Communion *Please stand as you are able.*

God of our pilgrimage,
we have found the living water.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forth on our journey,
in the name of 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 *Jesus Calls Us! O'er the Tumult* **432**
Please stand as you are able.

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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and,

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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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