

**St. John's Anglican Church, Ida  
Parish of Ida and Omemee  
March 19, 2023  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Service of Holy Communion**

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will have the light of life. John 8: 12*

**Opening: CP397 – Praise the One Who Breaks**

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light.**

**Praise the one who frees the prisoners,  
turning blindness into sight.**

**Praise the one who preached the gospel,  
healing every dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word.**

**Praise the one who drove out demons  
with a piercing two-edged sword.**

**Praise the one who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand.**

**From this well comes living water,  
quenching thirst in every land.**

**Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ who suffered in our place.**

**Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.**

**Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.**

**Praise the one redeeming glory,  
praise the One who makes us one.**

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**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.**

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

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

**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. Amen**

### **The Word**

**The First Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13**

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalms 23**

**The Lord is my shepherd;**

**I shall not be in want.**

**He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

**He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.**

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil,**

and my cup is running over.  
Surely your goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Psalm Prayer**

Glory to you, Jesus Christ, our good shepherd. In the waters of baptism you give us new birth, at your table you nourish us with heavenly food, and in your goodness and mercy, you guide us beyond the terrors of evil and death to your Father's home to dwell in eternal light.  
Glory to you for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

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

**John 9: 1-41**

The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Hymn: SGP24 – I Am the Light of the World**

*I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love  
you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be."*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way  
home, the work of Christmas is begun:

***Refrain:***

To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above!

*“I am the light of the world!*

*You people come and follow me!*

*If you follow and love*

*you’ll learn the mystery*

*of what you were meant to do and be.”*

To free the pris’ner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God’s children ev’rywhere!

***Refrain:***

To bring hope to ev’ry task you do,  
to dance at a baby’s new birth,  
to make music in an old person’s heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth!

***Refrain:***

**The Sermon: – Rev. Peter Mills**

**The Apostles’ Creed**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

**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.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

*We pray for the World, the Church and Ourselves.*

The response to the Intercessions will be:

Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself  
for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

Most merciful God,

**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.**

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. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The offering plate will not be passed during the service but will be available on the table at the front and back of the church.*

**Offertory Hymn: Psalm 23 (Townend)**

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.**

***And I will trust in You alone,  
and I will trust in You alone.  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.***

**He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and He anoints my head with oil.  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.**

***Refrain:***

**And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one.  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know.**

***And I will trust in You alone,  
and I will trust in You alone.  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.***

***For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.***

**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. Amen.**

*All who are baptized in any Christian Church are welcome to receive communion. If you are not yet baptized but are hungry for God, you are welcome. Rev. Peter would be glad to speak to you about being baptized. If you prefer to receive the bread only,*

*please cross your arms over your chest. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.*

*We stand throughout the Eucharistic prayer as a joyful sign that we have been raised to the new life in Christ.*

## **The Celebration of the Eucharist (2)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and Redeemer.

He is your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit  
he took flesh of the Virgin Mary  
and shared our human nature.

He lived and died as one of us,  
to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering,  
to bring release to those who place their hope in you;  
and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,  
and to give up his life on the cross,  
that he might shatter the chains of evil and death,  
and banish the darkness of sin and despair.  
By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.  
Now with all creation we raise our voices  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**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.**

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;  
who on the night he was handed over  
to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks,  
saying, "Take, and eat:  
this is my body which is broken for you."  
In the same way he took the cup,  
saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you.  
When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we offer you this bread and this cup,  
giving thanks that you have made us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
We ask you to send your Holy Spirit  
upon the offering of your holy Church.  
Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries,  
filling them with the Holy Spirit  
and confirming their faith in the truth,  
that together we may praise you  
and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son,  
with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God, as our Saviour taught us, so  
we pray:

**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.  
The Breaking of the Bread  
We break this bread  
Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let the Church be the wheat  
which bears its fruit in dying.  
**If we have died with him,  
we shall live with him;  
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us Your peace.**

**Hymn : Open Our Eyes, Lord**

**Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch Him,  
and say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears, Lord,  
and help us to listen,  
open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.**

**Hymn: Spirit Song**

**O let the Son of God enfold you  
with His Spirit and His love,**

let Him fill your life and satisfy your soul.  
O let Him have the things that hold you  
and His Spirit, like a dove,  
will descend upon your life and make you whole.  
*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.*  
*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.*

O come and sing this song with gladness  
as your hearts are filled with joy,  
lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.  
O give Him all your tears and sadness,  
give Him all your years of pain  
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' Name.  
*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.*  
*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.*

**Hymn: Oh, How He Loves You and Me**

Oh, how He loves you and me.  
Oh, how He loves you and me!  
He gave His life, what more could He give?  
Oh, how He loves you.  
Oh, how He loves me.  
Oh, how He loves you and me!  
(Repeat)

**Prayer after Communion**

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

*Please stand.*

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**

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, Son, and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love**

**Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love;  
too vast and astounding to tell.  
Forever existing in worlds above,  
now offered and given to all.  
Oh fountain of beauty eternal;  
the Father, the Spirit, the Son.  
Sufficient and endlessly generous:  
Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.**

**Creation is brimming with thankfulness,  
the mountains, exultant they stand;  
the seasons rejoice in Your faithfulness,  
all life is sustained by Your hand.  
You crown every meadow with colour.  
You paint every shade in the sky.  
Each day the dawn wakes as an encore of:  
Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.**

*How great, how sure;*

*His love endures*

*forevermore.*

*Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.*

**What grace, that you entered our brokenness;  
You came in the fullness of time.  
How far we had fallen from righteousness,  
but not from the mercies of Christ.  
Your cross is our door to redemption;  
Your death is our fullness of life.  
That day, how forgiveness flowed as a flood:  
Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.**

*Refrain:*

**United in Your resurrection,  
You lift us to infinite heights.  
Could anything sever or take us  
from magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.**

***How great, how sure;  
His love endures  
forevermore.  
Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.***

***How great, how sure; His love endures  
forevermore.  
Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.***

**Dismissal**

Let us go forth to follow Jesus in the way of his Cross.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Organ: Sylvia Amesbury  
Piano: Linda Parsons  
Preacher: Rev. Peter Mills  
Reader: Kelly Capper  
Prayers: Ted Hodgkinson  
Tech Team: Laura Mills/Dalton George  
Prayer Team: Sharon Dickinson/Phil Winslow  
Communion Assistant: Jean Lush**

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