

**St. John's Anglican Church, Ida
Parish of Ida and Omemee**

The Fourth Sunday in Lent Service of Holy Communion

March 15, 2026

*Welcome to Worship this morning!
We invite you to participate fully in the service,
and to remain following the service for our Coffee Hour.
Children are welcome to attend our Children's Program or to
remain with their families.*

*As we worship, at any time during the service, please assume
whatever physical position is best for you.*

The Gathering of the Community

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

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn *Christ Be Our Light*

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people;
light for the world to see.**

*Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.**

Refrain:

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**

Refrain:

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, shelter for others,
walls made of living stone.**

Refrain:

**Longing for gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.**

***Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

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.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever.

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.**

Confession and Absolution

Dear Friends in Christ, as we prepare for the Paschal Feast,
continuing in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the
breaking of bread, and in the prayers, let us make our hearts

ready to renew the covenant of our baptism. Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

Please kneel as you are able.

Let us ask God to bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and to disclose to us the secret purposes of our hearts. And most especially, let us remember the covenant of our baptism and test our hearts and conscience to know how faithfully we have striven for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being.

Silence is kept.

Prayer of Confession

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.**

Absolution

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.

Kyrie Eleison (*Sung*)

**Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

A 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 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

A reading from the First Book of Samuel (16:1-13)

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm (23)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

You make me lie down in green pastures and lead me beside still waters. You revive my soul and guide me along right pathways for your 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 goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

The 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

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (5:8-14)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Proclamation of the Gospel

Gospel Hymn *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

**Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn,
still you rise with every morn.**

**We remember truth once spoken,
love passed on through act and word;
every person lost and broken
wears the body of our Lord,
wears the body of our Lord.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (9:1-41)
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

“Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight.

“He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

“We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We sing:

**Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.**

**Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole,
flow in us and make us whole.**

The Sermon

A silence is held for reflection following the sermon.

The Congregation stands at the invitation of the Celebrant.

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, assuming whatever physical position helps us to pray (remain standing, kneel, or sit).

The response to the intercessions will be:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Please turn to the people near you and offer a sign of God's peace.

The Celebration of Holy Communion

The offering of money is a sign of our gratitude for God's blessing of our lives, collected in the plates placed at the front and back of the church before the service. The offering plates will not be passed during the service.

Offertory Hymn CP519 *The Lord's My Shepherd*

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want:
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill:
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray:

God of light,
**your Word brings to us a new vision of your glory. Accept
our offering and praise and thanksgiving, though Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth,
because you bid your faithful people
to cleanse their hearts
and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast;
that reborn through the waters of baptism
and renewed in the eucharistic mystery,
we may be more fervent in prayer

and more generous in the works of love.
Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, most holy all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored.
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he
whose life makes us whole, and whose death sets us free:
who comes in the name of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

Holy God, source of all life and goodness,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
In the fullness of time,
you sent your Son Jesus Christ,
to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.
He healed the sick
and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;
he opened the eyes of the blind
and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom
to the poor and those in need.
In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Gracious God,
his perfect sacrifice
destroys the power of sin and death;
by raising him to life you give us life for evermore.
Therefore, we proclaim our hope:

**Dying you destroyed our death.
Rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Recalling his death,
proclaiming his resurrection,
and looking for his coming again in glory,
we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us,
and upon these gifts,
that all who eat and drink at this table
may be one body and one holy people,
a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

Amen.

*A brief silence is kept. You are invited to kneel or stay seated
for the prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

Creator of all,
you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered
and made into this one bread.

**So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom.**

The Communion

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

Agnus Dei

**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, grant us peace.**

Spiritual Communion

*For those who are worshipping with us online, we invite you to
make your spiritual communion, by inviting Jesus into your
heart, saying "Come, Lord Jesus."*

A brief silence is kept.

*Communion can be brought to you in your seat if that's easier
for you. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the
bread and wine may indicate this to the bread administrator by
placing a hand to your heart.*

*Prayer will be offered during communion at the back of the sanctuary for those who wish to be prayed for.
All are welcome to be anointed before or after receiving communion at the pulpit side of the nave.*

Communion Hymns

Hymn CP70 *Jesus, The Joy of Loving Hearts*

**Jesus, the joy of loving hearts,
true source of life, our lives sustain;
from the best bliss that earth imparts,
we turn unfilled to you again.**

**Your truth unchanged has ever stood;
you rescue those who on you call:
to those yet seeking, you are good;
to those who find you, all in all.**

**We taste of you, the living bread,
and long to feast upon you still.
We drink from you, the fountain-head;
our thirsty souls from you we fill.**

**Our restless spirits long for you,
however may our lot be cast,
glad when your gracious smile we view,
blessed when our faith can hold you fast.**

**Jesus, forever with us stay:
make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the dark night of sin away;
spread through the world your holy light.**

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 *O Lord, You're Beautiful*

**O Lord, You're beautiful,
Your face is all I seek.
For when Your eyes are on this child,
Your grace abounds to me.**

**O Lord, please light the fire
that once burned bright and clear,
replace the lamp of my first love
that burns with holy fear!**

**I want to take your word
and shine it all around,
but first help me just to live it, Lord!
And when I'm doing well,
help me to never seek a crown,
for my reward is giving glory to You.**

**O Lord You're beautiful,
Your face is all I seek,
for when Your eyes are on this child,
Your grace abounds to me.**

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.***

The Community is Sent Out

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

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

The Doxology

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

Closing Hymn *Teach Me to Dance*

***Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.
Teach me to move in the pow'r of Your Spirit.
Teach me to walk in the light of Your presence.
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.***

*Teach me to love with Your heart of compassion.
Teach me to trust in the word of Your promise.
Teach me to hope in the day of Your coming.
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.*

You wrote the rhythm of life,
created heaven and earth;
in You is joy without measure.
So like a child in Your sight
I dance to see Your delight,
for I was made for Your pleasure, pleasure.

Refrain:

Let all my movements express
a heart that loves to say 'yes',
a will that leaps to obey You.
Let all my energy blaze
to see the joy in Your face.
Let my whole being praise You, praise You.

*Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.
Teach me to move in the pow'r of Your Spirit.
Teach me to walk in the light of Your presence.
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.*

*Teach me to love with Your heart of compassion.
Teach me to trust in the word of Your promise.
Teach me to hope in the day of Your coming.
Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart.*

Send Us Out

Send us out in the power of Your Spirit, Lord.
May our lives show Jesus to the world.
May each thought and word bring glory to Your name.
Send us out in Your Spirit, Lord, we pray.

The Dismissal

Go forth in the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

A Warm Welcome to all

Are you new to St. John's? We are so glad you have joined us today for worship. We encourage you to stay for coffee hour and introduce yourself to one of the clergy.

Would you like a visit? We'd be happy to visit with you at your home, in a coffee shop or at the church for pastoral conversation and/or home communion at your request.

Please call the office and one of the clergy will get back to you. 705.944.5350

If you experience a pastoral emergency (someone in the hospital or in urgent need) you can call our priest, The Rev. Canon Susan Spicer at 705.886.0057

Are you on the parish mailing and email list? If you would like to be, please let the office know.

Our Leaders Today

<i>Celebrant & Preacher</i>	The Rev. Canon Susan Spicer
<i>Music Director & Pianist</i>	Linda Parsons
<i>Organist</i>	Sylvia Amesbury
<i>Crucifer</i>	Adrian Olley
<i>Readers</i>	Maureen Harjula Matt Kydd Phil Winslow
<i>Intercessor</i>	Elaine Laliberte
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Jean Lush/Moyra Seabright
<i>Technical Team</i>	Dalton George/Jason Conrad
<i>Prayer Ministry Team</i>	Bette Holder/Don Winslow
<i>Anointer</i>	Cathy Olley

*Copyright 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Published by the Anglican Book Centre. Hymns used with permission under copyright License #11294851 by Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc. (CCLI)
Music Licenses: CCLI License #2987132, One License A-722138*