



Christ Church
Cathedral
Ottawa

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday | March 15th | 2026

10.30 am | Choral Eucharist | BAS

Communion Service in C | John Ireland

Welcome

Children are welcome to fully participate in the service
and activity sheets are available at the entrance to the Cathedral.
Sidespeople can provide headsets for those who need hearing assistance.
Please turn off or set mobile devices to silent mode.

*Our diocese was founded on the homeland of the Anishinaabe Algonquins.
May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude | *Adagio (Sonate der 94th Psalm) | Julius Reubke*

Introit | *Lent Prose | Tone V*

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have sinned against thee. God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated bow down and hearken to thy weeping children; pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Greeting

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.

A Penitential Order

Sentence | *John 8:12*

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will have the light of life.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

Invitation to Confession

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison. | Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Confession and Absolution

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.**

Prayer for the Bishop-Elect

Almighty God, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church. Give grace to your servant Kathryn, who has been called to the office and ministry of Bishop for your people in our Diocese; fill her with the truth of your doctrine and holiness of life, that she may faithfully serve you, to the glory of your name and for the benefit of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 Proclamation of the Word

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

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

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." 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.' 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." 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?" 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. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." 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." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 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." 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." 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.

Holy Word. Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Second Reading | Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what

is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Holy Word. Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual | *Oculi omnium* | *Charles Wood*

Oculi omnium in te sperant, Domine: et tu das escam illorum in tempore opportuno. Gloria tibi Domine, Amen. | *All eyes look to you, Lord: and you give them food in due time. Glory to you, Lord, Amen.*

Holy Gospel | *John 9:1-41*

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.

As he walked 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?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 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, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." Some of

the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 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." 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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Hymn 345 | *King of glory, King of peace*

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.

Prayers

Let us pray.

Gracious and holy God, we pray for your blessing to rest upon Shane, our Primate, Anne, our Metropolitan, our diocese and cathedral. Let your presence be made known in all that we do and all that we say. In this holy season of Lent, draw us more deeply into prayer, into humility, and into love, that your joy and compassion may flow through us and touch all whom we meet.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creator and Redeemer God, drive away the shadows of despair that linger over our politics and public life. Revive in us the longing for justice and truth; restore our courage to seek what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle reign throughout the world—especially in places torn by violence and war, where peace feels distant and where so many have lost homes, loved ones, and hope itself. Make us instruments of your peace and servants of reconciliation.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Compassionate and healing God, stretch out your tender hand upon all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. We remember before you those known to us who suffer in pain, those burdened by anxiety or grief, and those whose hearts are broken by personal or family struggles. Surround them with your mercy, uphold them with your strength, and grant them the comfort of your presence.

Silence.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all consolation, be near to those who mourn. Give courage and quiet faith to the bereaved, that, casting their cares upon you, they may find strength for each new day and hope in the promise of resurrection life.

Silence.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Faithful and everlasting God, renew us through this Lenten journey. Cleanse our hearts, strengthen our fellowship, and send us into the world as witnesses to the Gospel of your Son. May we walk the way of the cross with humility and love, bringing healing where there is hurt, welcome where there is loneliness, and reconciliation to this wounded world.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, receive these prayers, spoken and unspoken, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 446 | *Word of God, come down on earth*



Thank you for donating to the ministry of our Cathedral! You may also make an offering via the collection plate or tip-tap machine in the foyer, by going to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/5519> or by e-transfer to info@ottawacathedral.ca.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

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.**

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.

It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation, and your word endures for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels, with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven, we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you: *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.*

We praise you, merciful God, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,

who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread,

Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let your 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.

Agnus Dei

Communion

All are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you wish prayers for healing before receiving Communion, please carry an Order of Service with you; to receive a blessing, cross your hands over your chest; for a gluten-free wafer, hold out one hand; for a regular wafer, hold out two hands. Please do not dip the bread in the wine.

Motet | *Ave verum* | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Ave verum Corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine: cuius latum perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine, esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine. | Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: You who truly suffered and were sacrificed on the cross for the sake of man: From whose pierced side flowed water and blood: Be a foretaste for us in the trial of death.

The Sending of the Community

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.**

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

May the God of mercy transform you by grace, and the blessing of God the Creator, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 469 | *Sing praises old and new*

Postlude | *Allegro (Fugue der 94th Psalm)* | Julius Reubke

Celebrant | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff
Preacher | The Reverend Canon Doug Richards
Readers | Leslie Kirk | Geoffrey Ebere
Intercessor | Ann Chaplin
Duty Warden | Godfrey Mabaleka | Jane Morris

Organist | James Calkin
Director | Andrew McAnerney
Sung by | Boys | Lay Clerks

Liturgy: *The Book of Alternative Services* ©1985; *Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer #3* © 2001; *The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use* ©2016 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV)* Anglicized Edition, ©1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Readings Next Sunday | March 22nd

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa

Anishinaabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan | A place of prayer on Algonquin territory
The Anglican Cathedral in the Nation's Capital
Cathedral of the Canadian Forces Anglican Military Ordinariate

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Vicar | The Reverend Canon Douglas Richards (ext. 191)
Deacon Residentiary | The Reverend Dr. Jarrett Carty
Honorary Assistants | The Reverend Joan Riding | The Reverend Victoria Scott |
LCol (ret'd) The Venerable Michelle Staples | Lt (N) The Reverend Katherine Walker
Lay Readers | Daniel Jerusolimiec | Ted Livingstone
