

The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
February 22nd 2026
First Sunday in Lent



(Temptation of Christ, Rembrandt, commons.wikimedia.org)

“Nourishing faith and community”

Prelude

Words of Welcome *(Please stand as clergy enters)*

Musical opening:

VU703 In the Bulb There is a Flower

(Text and music: Natalie Sleeth, 1986 CCLI)

*In the bulb there is a flower,
in the seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning,
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing,
in our life, eternity,
in our death, a resurrection,*

*at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

The Gathering of the Community

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these
thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

CP 553 Ubi Caritas et Amor

*Ubi Caritas et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

*Live in charity and steadfast love,
live in charity; God will dwell with you.*

*Ubi Caritas et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

Let us pray,
Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no
iniquity,

and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not hide my iniquity;

I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord',

and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of might waters
shall not reach them.

You are a hiding-place for me;

you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you
should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without
understanding,

**whose temper must be curbed with bit and
bridle, else it will not stay near you.**

Many are the torments of the wicked,
**but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in
the Lord.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall
be, world without end. Amen.**

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world
through one man, and death came through sin, and
so death spread to all because all have sinned —
sin was indeed the world before the law, but sin is
not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death
exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over
those whose sins were not like the transgression of
Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.*

*But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if
the many died through the one man's trespass,
much more surely have the grace of God and the
free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ,
abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like
the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement
following one trespass brought condemnation, but
the free gift following many trespasses brings*

justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: CP 175 Forty Days and Forty Nights

(Text: George Hund Smyttan 1872-1870 1982 Hope Publishing; music Marin Herbst public domain) *(please stand)*

*Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild,
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:*

*burning heat throughout the day,
bitter cold when light had fled,
prowling beasts around your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.*

*Shall not we your trials share,
learn your discipline of will,
and with you by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of hell?*

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

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

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered,

'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Again the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Gospel Hymn: CP 175 Forty Days and Forty Nights

(Text: George Hund Smyttan 1872-1870 1982 Hope Publishing; music Marin Herbst public domain)

*So if Satan, pressing hard,
soul and body would destroy,
Christ who conquered, be our guard;
give to us the victor's joy.*

*Saviour, may we hear your voice
keep us constant at your side;
and with you we shall rejoice
at the eternal Eastertide.*

Sermon: The Reverend Gail Rodger

Musical Moment for Reflection

Announcements

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker
of heaven and earth,
And of all things visible and invisible:**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light; Very God, of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; Through whom all things were made: Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, The Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People
Confession and Absolution

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.

Come unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11. 28.*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3. 16.*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins: not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2. 1, 2*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

(Silence is kept)

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these

our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Please stand)

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts (please be seated for this hymn)

Hymn: CP 179 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

(Text and music: Marty Haugen (1950-) 1984 GIA Publications One License)

*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.*

*Seed that dies to rise in glory,
may we see ourselves in you;
if we learn to live your story
we may die to rise anew,
we may die to rise anew.*

*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.*

*Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,
come inflame our hearts anew.
we may all your joy inherit
if we bear the cross with you,
if we bear the cross with you.*

*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.*

*From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptations,
make us turn to you alone.
Make us turn to you alone.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine.

All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer *(Please stand)*

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things. Who has bidden us thy faithful people to cleanse our hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that renewed by your gift of forgiving love and the eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in works of love.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.**

**Blessed is the one that cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee, almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this

is my body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink ye all, of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy bread of eternal life and cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded:

**We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee,
and we pray to thee, Lord our God.**

And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are

partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.
Amen.

And now as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to

drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us thy peace.

The Communion

(Communion is offered at three locations in turn: station one is at the back of the church near the candles for those who prefer to stand and/or are physically challenged by steps without railings; station two, brought to the pew. Please let the usher know if you would like it brought to the pew; station three: at the altar rail for all those who are able)

Instrumental musical selections during communion

Prayer after Communion *(please stand)*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee that thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; Assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; And that we are living members of his mystical Body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; And are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Post Communion Hymn: Light Serene of Holy Glory (Text: St Athenogenes 296 ad. Music: Stacy Plays Hymns 2025. Used by permission as stated on website stacyplayshymns.com)

*Light serene of holy glory
From the Immortal Father poured,
Holy Thou, O blessed Jesus,
Holy, blessed, Christ the Lord.*

*Now we see the sun descending,
Now declines the evening light,
And in hymns we praise the Father,
Son and Spirit, God of Might.*

*All is still and dark around us
All is solemn and still before
Thou the King of Light and Shadow
Guard us now and forevermore*

*Worthy of unending praises,
Christ the Son of God, art Thou;*

*For Thy gift of life eternal,
See the world adores Thee now.*

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Special Music: *Postlude on Slane by Robert Hall,* (Robert Hall (2025 played with permission) wrote this piece in honour of his mother who turns 100 years old on Feb 23rd. It is being played by numerous organists across Canada today. Robert Hall is the Director of Music and organist at St Matthews in the Glebe Anglican Parish in Ottawa where Lawrence's brother Leonard (RIP) attended.)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(no alleluias during Lent)

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Qu'Appelle, Bishop Helen Kennedy; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our region, we pray for St Georges Cadboro Bay, The Rev. Christine Conkin

In our parish we pray for:

Dorothy Barnes, William Bates, Ann Barry, Cindy Bourgeois, Caleb Bourgeois, Coen Bourgeois, Keith Brandsma & Keiko Hoshino, Doug & Bev Bowen, Jan Brister, and, with loving memory, Myrna Bennett.

In our community we pray for the Rainbow Kitchen.

For the month of February, we pray for gifts of leadership in music.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Ləkʷəŋən speaking peoples, who are the Esquimalt, Songhees and other Nations of the Salish and Coast Salish Peoples. We, who came from many lands to join the line of those worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.

A note about Bishop Athenogenes.

St. Athenogenes (202 to 302 a.d.) and his Ten Disciples suffered for Christ during the persecution of Christians in the city of Sebastea in Cappadocia. The governor Philomachos arranged a large festival in honor of the pagan gods and called upon the citizens of Sebastea to offer sacrifices to the idols. Most of the inhabitants of Sebastea were Christians, and refused to participate in the impious celebration. Soldiers were ordered to kill those who resisted, and so many Christians received a martyr's crown.

Bishop Athenogenes was arrested when he came to Sebastea to inform the judge that those who had been jailed were innocent. While in prison, Athenogenes encouraged his spiritual children, preparing them for their impending struggle. Led forth to trial, all the holy martyrs confessed themselves Christians and refused to offer sacrifice to idols.

After undergoing fierce tortures, the disciples of the holy bishop were beheaded. After the execution of the disciples, the executioners were ordered to torture the bishop. Strengthened by the Lord, the saint endured the tortures with patience and dignity. He requested only that he be executed in the monastery.

Taken to his own monastery, the saint gave thanks to God, and he rejoiced in the sufferings that he had been accounted worthy to endure for Him. He prayed that the Lord would forgive the sins of all those who would remember both him and his disciples.

The Lord granted the saint to hear His Voice before death, announcing the promise given to the penitent thief: "Today you shall be with Me in Paradise." The hieromartyr (eastern orthodox priestly martyr) willingly bent his neck beneath the sword, thus entering eternal life.

Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul
1379 Esquimalt Road
Victoria, BC V9A 3R4



ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

Bishop The Rt. Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee
Rector The Rev. Gail Rodger 250-507-9941
Rector's Warden John Ducker
Peoples' Warden Jan Brister
Organist Lawrence Surges
Safe Church Liaison Karen Hogg 250-386-6833
Envelope Secretary Lynda Delaney
givings@stpeterandpaul.ca
Parish Office Hours: by appointment only.
Office Phone: 250-386-6833



www.facebook.com/AnglicanParishOfStPeterAndStPaul
VictoriaBcCanada/

E-mail: admin@stpeterandpaul.ca

Website: www.stpeterandpaul.ca

CCLI License No.3233500

Charitable Tax No. 118787142 RR 000 0005