

The Church of St. John the Divine

Ash Wednesday

7:00 pm

February 18, 2026

St. John's acknowledges these ancestral territories of the Lekwungen people.



The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

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February 18, 2026

7:00 pm Parish Eucharist

As people of God, we celebrate Christ in the heart of Victoria through joyful worship, building inclusive community, and putting faith into action.

St. John's acknowledges these lands of the Lekwungen people.

We are an inclusive and affirming parish; the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we.

*The congregation is invited to join in the hymns, responses and prayers marked in **bold print**.*

Presider: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Greeter: Ruth Swinton

Crucifer: Penny Holt

Readers: Ava Gregorian, Karen Coverett

Sacristan: Penny Holt

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Virginia Miller,
Graeme Brown

Gospel: Jamie Lawson

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Litany Leader: Gary Moss

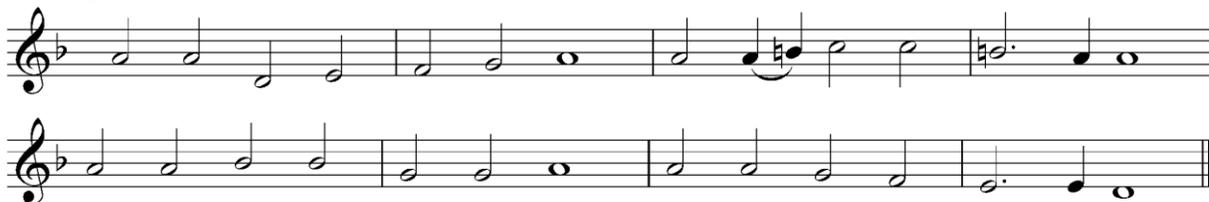
Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: Members of The Choristers of St. John the Divine
Char Hodgkins, Assistant Director
David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

The Gathering of the Community

Processional Hymn (NEH 67)

AUS DER TIEFE



- 1. Forty days and forty nights**
Thou wast fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted and yet undefiled.
- 2. Sunbeams scorching all the day,**
Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way,
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.
- 3. Let us thine endurance share,**
And awhile from joys abstain,
With thee watching unto prayer,
Strong with thee to suffer pain.
- 4. And if Satan, vexing sore,**
Flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his vanquisher before,
Grant we may not faint nor fail.
- 5. So shall we have peace divine,**
Holier gladness ours shall be,
Round us too shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee.
- 6. Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,**
Ever constant by thy side,
That with thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.

Text: G. H. Smyttan (1822-70) and Francis Pot (1832-1909).
Music: 'M.H.' in *Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch* 1676. Melody possibly by M. Herbst (1654-81).

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you despise nothing you have made
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our brokenness,
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.
‘Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOD is full of compassion and mercy, * slow to anger and of great kindness.
 GOD will not always accuse us, * nor will GOD keep their anger for ever.
 GOD has not dealt with us according to our sins, * nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
 For as the heavens are high above the earth, * so is GOD's mercy great upon those who fear GOD.
 As far as the east is from the west, * so far has GOD removed our sins from us.
 As a parent cares for their children, * so does GOD care for those who fear GOD.
 For GOD indeed knows whereof we are made; * GOD remembers that we are but dust.
 Our days are like then grass; * we flourish like a flower of the field;
 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, * and its place shall know it no more.
 But the merciful goodness of GOD endures for ever on those who fear GOD, * and GOD's righteousness on children's children;
 On those who keep GOD's covenant * and remember GOD's commandments and do them.

Inclusive Language Psalter: A New Gender-Inclusive Adaption of the Book of Psalms.
 Based on the 1979 Book of Common Prayer Text (Version for Congregational Use).
 Edited and adapted by Adam Waddell, Hannah Bowman, the Rev. K.D. Joyce, and the Rev. Bailey Pickens.

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

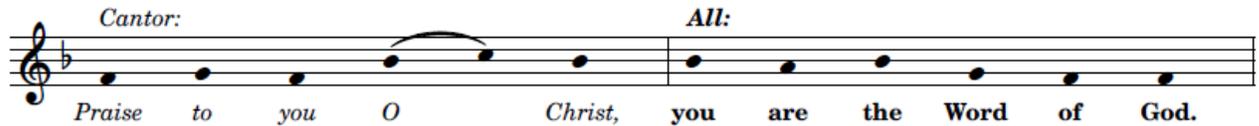
As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
 and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

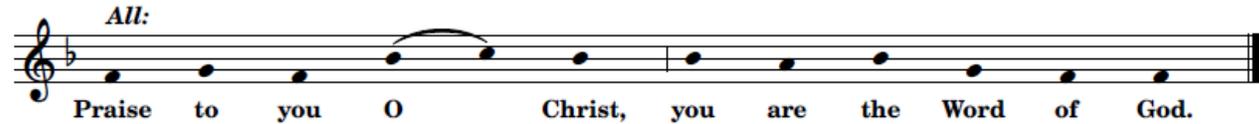
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Before the Gospel

Cantor: The Lord is a great God; O that today you would listen to his voice; harden not your hearts.



God is with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

‘So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Anthem

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore.
Amen.

Text: Richard Farrant (c1525 - 1580)

The Liturgy of the Ashes

Dear friends in Christ,
every year at the time of the Christian Passover
we celebrate our redemption
through the death and resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.

We begin this holy season
by remembering our need for repentance,
and for the mercy and forgiveness
proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes,
an ancient sign,
speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,
and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord,
to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination, penitence, prayer,
fasting, and almsgiving,
and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Litany of Penitence

**All: Most holy and merciful Father,
we confess to you, to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

All: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Almighty God,
from the dust of the earth you have created us.
May these ashes be for us a sign
of our mortality and penitence,
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift
are we given eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All: Amen.

The choir receives the Imposition of Ashes, then sings Psalm 51 in the setting by Gregorio Allegri.

As the singing of the psalm begins, all are invited to come forward to receive the Ashes. At the Imposition, the ministers says:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Psalm 51:1-3, 9-12, 17-20

1 MISERERE MEI, Deus:

secundum magnam misericordiam tuam;

2 et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum:

dele iniquitatem meam.

11 Cor mundum crea in me, Deus:

et spiritum rectum innova in visceribus meis.

12. Ne proicias me a facie tua:

et spiritum sanctum tuum e auferas a me.

17 Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium,

dedissem utique:

holocaustis non delectaberis.

18 Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus:

cor contritum et humiliatum, Deus,

non despicias.

19 Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tua Sion: ut

aedificentur muri Ierusalem.

20 Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiae, oblationes et

holocaust:

tunc imponent super

altare tuum vitulos.

HAVE MERCY ON ME, O God:

according to your loving-kindness;

In your great compassion

blot out my offenses.

Create in me a clean heart, O God:

and renew a right (steadfast) spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence:

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Had you desired it,

I would have offered sacrifice,

but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:

a broken and contrite heart, O God,

you will not despise.

Be favourable and gracious to Zion, and rebuild the

walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will be pleased with the appointed

sacrifices, with burnt-offerings and oblations; then

shall they offer young bullocks

upon your altar.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

All: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord

All: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on you,

forgive you all your sins

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit

keep you in eternal life.

All: Amen.

The Peace

Please stand.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn (CP 556)

CAITHNESS



1. **O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb.**
2. **What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void
the world can never fill.**
3. **Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest:
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
and drove thee from my breast.**
4. **The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne
and worship only thee.**
5. **So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.**

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800).
Music: Melody – Scottish Psalter, 1635.

The Prayer over the Gifts

Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness.
Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Supplementary Prayer One
Church of England

Priest: The Lord be with you. *All:* And also with you. *Priest:* Lift up your hearts. *All:* We lift them to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *All:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator,
loving and faithful, holy and strong.
You made us and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
Suffering on the cross;
Dying to save us from sin;
rising in glory from the dead.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy

You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels
to celebrate and sing:

Sanctus (sung by choir)

*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 he that cometh in the Name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest.*

Creator, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with friends.
Taking bread, Jesus thanked you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.
After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine, thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Creator, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember Jesus' death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

All: Amen, Amen, Amen

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

All: Amen, Amen, Amen

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.



All: A men A - men A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

Ambrosian Chant

Priest: As our saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray:



Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hal-lowed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done,



on earth as in hea-ven. 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 tri-al,



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. A-men

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The Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup:

All: We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

All are invited to receive communion. Receiving bread or wine is considered full communion. As it is considered unsafe, it is the practice of the ACC not to dip the bread into the wine. Any not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing, and to indicate that by holding their arms crossed on their chest.

If you are unable to come to a communion station please make this known to the Greeters and we will bring communion to you.

Gluten-free wafers for communion are available. Please request them from the person who is distributing the bread.

Agnus Dei *(sung by choir)*

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

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

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

During Communion

Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott BWV 721

J.S. Bach (1685-1703)

The Commissioning of the Community

Prayer after Communion

All your works praise you, O Lord.

All: And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God,

**All: we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we, who share his body, live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. 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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Go in love and peace to serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn (CP 511)

SOUTHWELL



1. Lord Jesus think on me
and purge away my sin:
from earthborn passions set me free
and make me pure within.
2. Lord Jesus, think on me,
with many a care oppressed;
let me thy loving servant be
and taste thy promised rest.
3. Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.
4. Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share thy joy at last.
5. Lord Jesus, think on me,
that I may sing above
to Father, Holy Ghost, and thee
the songs of praise and love.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene (365-414), tr. Allen W. Chatfield (1808-1896).

Music: William Daman (1540-1591).

Voluntary

"1st Kyrie" (*Plein Jeu*), from *Messe pour les Convents*

François Couperin (1668-1733)

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

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Jaqueline Gillespie, Murray Harris
Pam Plummer, Ruth Swinton, Cornelia van Voorst

Synod Delegates

Jim Harlick, Jamie Lawson, Michael Zenger

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