



March 22, 2026

The 5th Sunday in Lent

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

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

Welcome to the Parish Church of St. John the Divine, Victoria

We are a community of faith in the Anglican Tradition, seeking to live lives of faith, hope and love as part of this community in Downtown Victoria. We are on a journey of learning to be a welcoming, inviting, inclusive and serving community which is open to all.

Our worship reflects our rootedness in the Anglican tradition, whilst drawing on liturgies that reflect the long history and heritage of our Christian faith. Please join in as you feel able, and enjoy the words, music and opportunity for prayer and to be a part of our community.

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.

Worship

Service times: **8:00 am (Holy Communion – said service), 10:00 am (Holy Eucharist with choir and organ), 4:30 pm (BCP Choral Evensong)** on Sundays as well as mid-week services (please see our website for times). If you can't attend in person we invite you to join us via Zoom (email admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca for the link) or through the livestream on the Website: www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

Daily prayer online is shared daily with a link on our website either live or via recording.

Contacting Us: The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm. The main email for contact is: admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca. If you wish to receive prayer for yourself or for another, there will be members of our Pastoral Care Team who will offer their prayers. Please contact the church office at the above email address. You are very welcome here. We don't always get it right; please let us know when we do, and when we don't. Please stay and be a part of our family, for however long you would like.

Assisting with this afternoon's Liturgy

Officiant: Gary Moss

Preacher: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Welcomer: Ava Gregorian

Reader: Ben Groom

Music: Quartet

David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

Char Hodgkins, Assistant Director

Streaming Technician: Ben Groom

A note about language

In our worship, we use language which is poetic and filled with metaphor and wonder – realising that any language about God is limited. We use some ancient words which may seem odd, or may seem to refer to God as male, or in terms which elsewhere we might not choose to use. The poetry and the metaphor are there not to restrict or define our understanding of God, but to remind us that our words are never enough to talk about the Divine: instead, we use the beauty of the words and music in our worship to help us glimpse just a little of the God beyond all words.

Listed music is subject to substitution in the event of changes of personnel or situation.

Cover Image : Photo by David Stratkauskas



If you would like to give to support the work and ministries of St. John the Divine you can do so in the offering plate which is by the Garden door. There are also envelopes in the book stand which can make your gifts tax efficient. Alternatively, you can scan this QR code which will take you to our Canada Helps giving page. You may also conveniently use our tap machine (no tax receipt) which is available at the garden door entrance, or the bank machine (tax receipt with envelope completion) available at the office. Envelopes for regular giving are available from the church office.

Donations may be emailed to givings@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca If you are a new donor and wish a tax receipt, please include your mailing address in the comment section.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please stand as you are able.

Prelude

The officiant gives a short welcome.

Please stand as you are able.

The Responses

Char Hodgkins

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

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

Praise ye the Lord. (The Lord's name be praised.)

Please be seated for the singing of the psalm.

Psalm

30

- 1 I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up * and not made my foes to triumph over me.
- 2 O Lord my God, I cried unto thee * and thou hast healed me.
- 3 Thou, Lord, hast brought my soul out of hell * thou hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit.
- 4 Sing praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of his * and give thanks unto him for a remembrance of his holiness.
- 5 For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye, and in his pleasure is life * heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.
- 6 And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be removed * thou, Lord, of thy goodness hast made my hill so strong.
- 7 Thou didst turn thy face from me * and I was troubled.
- 8 Then cried I unto thee, O Lord * and gat me to my Lord right humbly.
- 9 What profit is there in my blood * when I go down to the pit?
- 10 Shall the dust give thanks unto thee * or shall it declare thy truth?
- 11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me * Lord, be thou my helper.

12 Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy * thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.

13 Therefore shall every good man sing of thy praise without ceasing * O my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

Please stand as you are able for the Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son * and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be * world without end. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Lesson

Lamentations 3:19-33

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not reject for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Please stand as you are able.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Purcell in Gm

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and the meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He

remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Please be seated.

Second Lesson

Matthew 20:17-34

Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

"What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

"Lord," they answered, "we want our sight."

Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Please stand as you are able.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Purcell in Gm

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

All: I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Responses, Lord's Prayer, and Collects

Cantor: The Lord be with you;

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Cantor: Let us pray.

Please remain standing, kneel, or be seated as is your preference for prayer.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Cantor: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor: O Lord, save the King;

Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor: O Lord, save thy people;

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Cantor: O God, make clean our hearts within us;

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

1st Collect, of the day:

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

2nd Collect, for Peace:

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

3rd Collect, for Aid Against All Perils:

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please be seated.

Anthem *(sung by the choir)*

My God, my God look upon me,
why hast thou forsaken me?
and art so far from my health
and from the words of my complaint.

O God, my God,
I cry'd unto thee in the daytime and thou hearest not,
and in the night season also I take no rest.

and thou continuest holy
O thou worship of Israel.

My God, my God look upon me,
why hast thou forsaken me?

Text and Music: John Blow (1649-1708)

Please remain seated, kneel, or stand as is your preference.

Intercessions

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn (USA 439)

Text: American Folk Hymn c. 1835

Music: **WONDROUS LOVE**, The Southern Harmony 1835

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- 1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.**
- 2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM ,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme I will sing!**
- 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

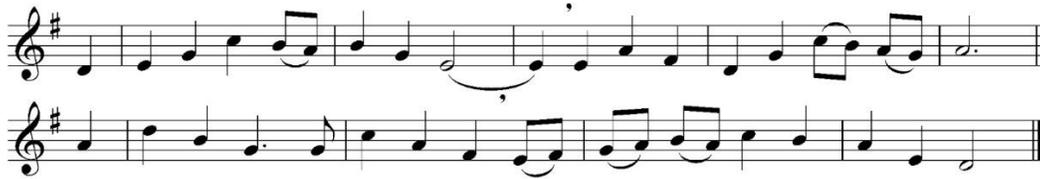
Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn (CP 187)

Text: Venantius Fortunatus (540?-600?). tr. Alan Gaunt (1935-2023).
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Music: GONFALON ROYAL, Percy Carter Buck (1871-1947). © Oxford University Press.
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1. As royal banners are unfurled,
the cross displays its mystery:
The Maker of our flesh, in flesh,
impaled and hanging helplessly.
2. Already deeply wounded: See
his side now riven by a spear,
and all our sins are swept away
by blood and water flowing here.
3. See everything the prophets wrote
fulfilled in its totality,
and tell the nations of the world
our God is reigning from the tree.
4. This tree, ablaze with royal light
and with the blood-red robe it wears,
is hallowed and embellished by
the weight of holiness it bears.
5. Stretched like a balance here, his arms
have gauged the price of wickedness;
but, hanging here, his love outweighs
hell's unforgiving bitterness.
6. The Saviour, victim, sacrifice,
is, through his dying, glorified;
his life is overcome by death
and leaps up, sweeping death aside.
7. We hail the cross, faith's one true hope:
God's passion set in time and space,
by which our guilt is blotted out,
engulfed in such stupendous grace.

The Blessing or Grace

Please be seated.

Organ Voluntary

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine
(Diocese of British Columbia / Anglican Church of Canada)
1611 Quadra Street Victoria BC V8W 2L5 250.383.7169
stjohnthedivine.bc.ca facebook.com/musicSJD



Palm Sunday, March 29

8:00 am – Said Book of Common Prayer service

10:00 am – Parish Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palms

2:30 pm Concert - Bach's St. John Passion

with the Choristers of St. John the Divine, the Victoria Baroque, and members of the Choirs of Christ Church Cathedral.

Ticketed event, at Christ Church Cathedral [Ticket info](#)

Holy Week Services

Monday, March 30 – 5:30 pm Holy Communion with Prayers of Penitence

Tuesday, March 31 – 5:30 pm Holy Communion with Prayers of Healing

Wednesday, April 1 – 5:30 pm Creative Prayer Stations

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 pm Parish Eucharist with Washing of the Feet and Stripping of the Altars

With sermon. Music led by the Choristers of St. John.

Good Friday, April 3

10:00 am Liturgy of the Cross

Solemn liturgy of the day, with sung Passion narrative.

12 noon Three Hours' Meditation

Easter Day, April 5

8:00 am Holy Communion - Said service, Book of Common Prayer

10:00 am Easter Eucharist

Festive service, with sermon, activities for children, and full music led by the Choristers of St. John.

Note: *There is no Choral Evensong on Palm Sunday or Easter Day (March 29 and April 5)*