

**HOLY
EUCCHARIST**
for the
Fourth Sunday
of Lent

St. John's
Anglican Church
West Toronto

March 12, 2023
10:00 am

* *The Land Acknowledgement is taken from A Liturgy for The National Indigenous Day of Prayer*
https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/nidp-liturgy.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1oWVCmVyX1tQWadWWfd1e5PoGDI4bf_p77nxkedV50uBfllCO4BE2MUa
8 Retrieved 2021 March 8.

Cover Image: *Les aveugles de Capharnum* by James Tissot, 19th c.

Our liturgy is taken from the Book of Alternative Services (1985) © 2004 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. All rights reserved. Reproduced under license from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library. Further copying is prohibited.

Scripture readings from The Inclusive Bible, © 2007 Priests for Equality. Authorized for non-commercial use and the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, and 1971 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Unless otherwise noted, music is from Common Praise (CP), © 1998 by The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Please see specific copyright notice below each hymn/song.

Service Music: Mass of the Lamb, Francis Patrick O'Brien © 2018 G.I.A. Publications Inc.

Today's Reading: Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14, NRSV; John 9:1-27, Inclusive Bible

New around here? We're so glad to see you! Welcome to St. John's! We hope you are blessed today as we worship God together.

We invite you to stay for fellowship following our service or join us for education classes. If you have any questions about our congregation or the sermon, feel free to ask a member of the ministry team or to contact us another way. We're so glad you're here and hope to see you again.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant & Preacher:	Mother Alexandra Stone
Eucharistic Assistants:	Lisa Rumble & Jim Crummey
Lectors:	May Webster & Susan Rynasko
Intercessor:	Judith Olumbe
Lay Anointers:	Lisa Rumble & Carrie Cardwell
Guitar:	David Krause
Vocalists:	Lee Ramsay & David Krause
Technical Support:	Greg Los, Chris Rutty & Michael Taylor

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to the Wendat, the Anishinaabe, the Mississauga of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee, the first people of this land.

We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred on this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced.

With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

PRELUDE

ASPERGES

Refrain

*Springs of water, bless the Lord,
giving glory and praise for ever! X2*

Water of mercy, heal and renew us.

Wash us in your saving grace. **Refrain**

Streams of compassion, cover your people.

Wash us in your saving grace. **Refrain**

HYMN

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

CP 533

Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Text: Charles Wesley
Music: Joseph Parry

OPENING PRAYERS

Celebrant: The grace of Jesus the Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: **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 Saviour. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

COLLECT

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that Christ may live in us, and we in Him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Hebrew Testament and the first book of Samuel.

God 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 God said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to God.' 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 God 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 God; 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 God's anointed is now before God." But God said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has God chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has God chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "God has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And Jesse 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. God 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 God came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

PAUSE

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

The psalm is printed in the bulletin. Let us read it responsively.

God 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 Most High for ever.

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul the Apostle's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

For once you were darkness, but now in Christ 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 Christ. 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."

PAUSE

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honor to you, O Jesus Christ!

Praise and honor to you, O Jesus Christ!

[May repeat]

THE GOSPEL

Gospeller: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to John.

All: Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, was it this individual’s sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents?”

“Neither,” answered Jesus, “it was not because of anyone’s sin – not this person, nor the parent’s. We must do the deeds of the One who sent me while it is still day – for night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and smeared the blind one’s eyes with the mud. Then Jesus said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” – ‘Siloam’ means ‘sent.’ So the person went off to wash, and came back able to see. Neighbours and those who had been accustomed to seeing the blind beggar began to ask, “Is this not the one who use to sit and beg?” Some said yes; others said no, the one who was healed simply looked like the beggar. But the individual in question said, “No – it was me.”

The people then asked, “Then how are your eyes opened?” The answer came, “The One they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash. When I went and washed, I was able to see.”

“Where is Jesus?” they asked. The person replied, “I have no idea.”

They took the one who had been born blind to the Pharisees. It had been on a Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened this one’s eyes. The Pharisees asked how the individual could see. They were told, “Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see.”

This prompted some Pharisees to say, “This Jesus cannot be from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others

argued, “But how could a sinner perform signs like these?” They were sharply divided. Then they addressed the blind person again: “Since it was your eyes Jesus opened, what do you have to say about this Jesus?” “He is a prophet,” came the reply.

The Temple authorities refused to believe that this one had been blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents. “Is this your child?” they asked, “and if so, do you attest that your child was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that now your child can see?”

The parents answered, “We know this is our child, blind from birth. But how our child can see now, or who opened those blind eyes, we have no idea. But do not ask us – our child is old enough to speak without us!” The parents answered this way because they were afraid of the Temple authorities, who had already agreed among themselves that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why they said, “Our child is of age and should be asked directly.”

A second time they summoned the one who had been born blind and said, “Give God the glory instead; we know that this Jesus is a sinner.”

“I do not know whether he is a sinner or not,” the individual answered. “All I know is that I used to be blind, and now I can see.” They persisted, “Just what did he do you? How did he open your eyes?”

“I already told you, but you will not listen to me,” came the answer. “Why do you want to hear it all over again? Do not tell me you want to become disciples of Jesus too!”

PAUSE

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

All: **Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honor to you, O Jesus Christ!
Praise and honor to you, O Jesus Christ!

SERMON

Please be seated for the sermon.

REFLECTION

God is my Shepherd

Brian Houston

APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: I invite you now, as you are able, to stand and to join in
confessing the faith of our baptism, as we say,

Celebrant: I believe in God Almighty,

All: creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Saviour.

**He was conceived by 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 God.**

**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 OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Forgiving God,

All: Hear our cry.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Assistant: 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 is kept

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Celebrant: 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 the Christ.

All: Amen.

Those who wish to do so may come forward for prayer and anointing.

HYMN **Lead Me On**

Gone is the darkness, now comes the dawn.
O good shepherd, lead me on.

Refrain

*Lead me on; lead me on;
O good shepherd, lead me on.*

Green are your pastures, where I belong.
Tender your mercies, lead me on. **Refrain**

When in my weakness you are made strong,
Saviour and keeper, lead me on. **Refrain**

Soft is your calling, sweet is your song.
Willing I follow, lead me on. **Refrain**

Text & Music: Gord Johnson

THE PEACE

Celebrant: May the peace of Jesus the Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

We take a moment to share the peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

OFFERTORY

If you are able to make a contribution, we appreciate your generosity. Your offering makes it possible to continue our ministry here at St. John's.

If you would prefer to give online, please visit our website at www.sjw.ca and look for the donate now button.

HYMN **Blessed Jesus, At Your Word**

CP 559

Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you.
By your gospel pure and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
you must work all good within us.

Glorious Lord, yourself impart;
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
open lips and ears and heart;
help us by your Spirit's leading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer; tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt.

Music: Melody Johann Rudolph Ahle, alt.; harm. George Herbert Palmer.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God of mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love. Accept all we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died and rose again. Therefore with angels and archangels and all who have served you in every age, we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, O God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Our God.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE SAVIOUR'S PRAYER

Celebrant: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Abba, Amma, Beloved, your name be hallowed, your reign spread among us, your will be done well, at all times, in all places, on earth as in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Let us not fail in the time of our testing. Spare us from trials too sharp to endure. Free us from the grip of all evil powers. For yours is the reign, the power and the glory, the victory of love, for now and eternity, world without end. Amen and Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: We break this bread,

All: Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Celebrant: Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

All: If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stand around the altar in a circle and remain there until everyone has received Communion.

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**

COMMUNION

The Eucharistic feast is a participation in the Body and Blood of Christ. Receiving Communion is a sacramental means through which we reaffirm that we became part of Christ's one Body in our baptism.

The Anglican Church welcomes all Christians from any denomination to receive Communion.

Please speak to the priest after the service if you would like to discuss baptism or if you have any questions about the sacraments.

Those who do not wish to receive Communion at this time are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you wish to be blessed.

Gluten free hosts are available. Please let us know if you require one.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those who wish to do so are invited to make their Spiritual Communion. You may use the following prayers.

In union, O God, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen

Come, Jesus, dwell in me in the fullness of your strength, in the perfection of your ways, and in the holiness of your Spirit, and rule over every hostile power in the might of your Spirit, and to the glory of God. Amen.

May the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ preserve my body and soul unto everlasting life. Amen.

HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

CP 606

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in Heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

Foolish hearts, why will you scatter
Like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Fainting souls, why will you wander
From a love so true and deep?

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

*Text: Frederick William Faber, alt.
Music: Melody Johann Ludwig Steiner*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the splendour of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Celebrant: Please join in affirming our commitment to serve God in the world.

All: We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place; into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;

to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

BLESSING

CELEBRATIONS, NEEDS, REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. **CP 672**
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, in Jesus fully known.
Creator, Word and Spirit one.

HYMN **We Will Lay Our Burden Down** **CP 545**

We will lay our burden down,
We will lay our burden down,
We will lay our burden down,
In the hands of the risen One.

We will light the flame of love...
As the hands of the risen One.

We will show both hurt and hope...
Like the hands of the risen One.

We will walk the path of peace...
Hand in hand with the risen One.

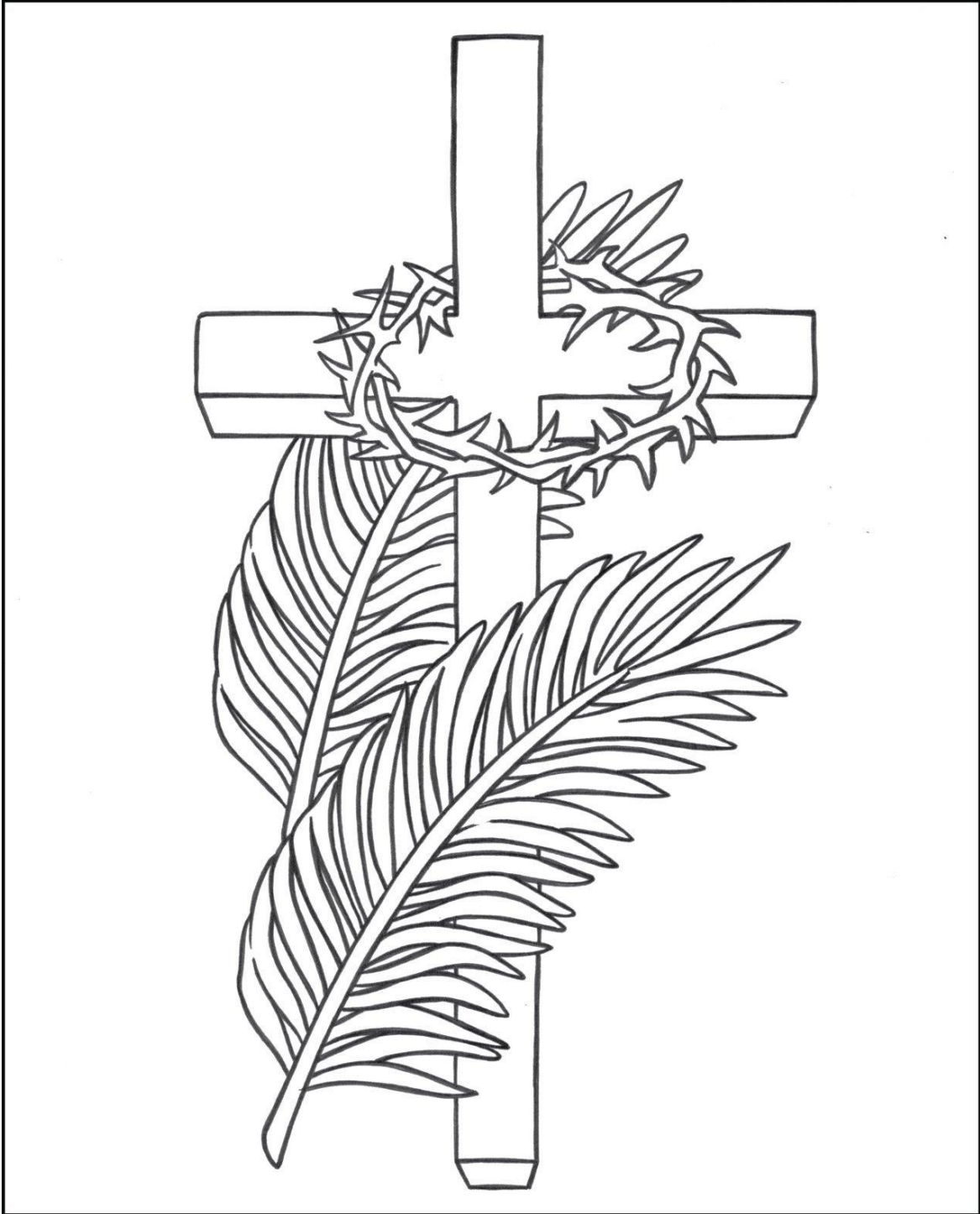
Text & Music: John L. Bell, alt.
© 1989 T.

DISMISSAL

Assistant: Continue your Lenten journey, seeking God's wisdom and will.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



Building up for God!

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenges of our daily lives and ministries. We call on everyone to come and join us.

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight, and LGBTQ2S+. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

Ministry Team:

The Rev. Alexandra Stone, *Interim Priest-in-Charge*
pastor@sjwt.ca 647-542-1467

The Rev. Evelyn Butler, *Deacon*
deaconevelyn@sjwt.ca 647-224-5410

The Rev. Bob Shantz, *Honorary Assistant*

Management Team:

Lisa Rumble, *People's Warden*
John Spragge, *Deputy People's Warden*
Sheila Crummey, *Rector's Warden*
Greg Los, *Deputy Rector's Warden*
Wardens@sjwt.ca