

HOLY EUCHARIST
for the Fifth Sunday
of Lent

St. John's
Anglican Church
West Toronto

March 26, 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: *The Raising of Lazarus by Vincent van Gogh, 1890.*

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

Today's Reading: *Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11, NRSV; John 11:1-45, 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 & Carrie Cardwell
Lectors:	Jim Crummey & Jennifer Jenkins
Intercessor:	Cheryl Atkins
Piano:	Dan Gooch
Vocalists:	Lee Ramsay & Alie Ruty
Technical Support:	Harold Price, Chris Ruty & Michael Taylor

PRELUDE

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.**

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**

Rivers of wisdom, form us and shape us.

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

HYMN

Fairest Christ Jesus

CP 619

Fairest Christ Jesus,
ruler of all nature,
O thou the Godhead's human Son,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer
who makes the troubled heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.

All fairest beauty,
Heavenly and earthly,
Wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;
None can be nearer,
fairer or dearer
Than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

*Text: Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; tr. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850, alt.
Music: Melody Silesian trad.; Schlesische Volkslieder, Leipzig, 1842; arr. James Hopkirk
© Estate of James Hopkirk.*

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.

Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you created humanity anew. May the power of his victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to 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 book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The hand of the Eternal One came upon me, and brought me out by the Spirit and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. The Eternal One led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. The Eternal One said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "God, you know." Then God said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of God. Thus says the God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am God."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then God said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as God commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am God, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Eternal One, have spoken and will act," says God.

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.

Out of the depths have I called you, O God; God, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, O God, were to note what is done amiss, O God, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for you, O God; my soul waits for you; in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for you, O God, more than sentinels for the morning, more than sentinels for the morning.

O Israel, wait for God, for with God there is mercy;

with whom there is plenteous redemption, and who shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

SECOND READING

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

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, for those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, God who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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.

There was a certain man named Lazarus, who was sick. Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were from the village of Bethany. Mary was the one who had anointed the feet of Jesus

with perfume and dried his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. The sisters sent this message to Jesus: “Rabbi, the one you love is sick.” When Jesus heard this, he said, “This sickness will not end in death; it is happening for God’s glory, so that God’s Only Begotten may be glorified because of it.”

Jesus loved these three very much, yet even after hearing that Lazarus was sick, he remained where he was staying for two more days. Finally he said to the disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” They protested, “Rabbi, it was only recently that they tried to stone you – and you want to go back there again?”

Jesus replied, “Are not there twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk by day do not stumble, because they see the world bathed in light; those who go walking by night will stumble because there is no light in them.” After Jesus said this, he said to the disciples, “Our beloved Lazarus has fallen asleep. I am going to Judea to wake him.” He disciples objected, “But Rabbi, if he is only asleep, he will be fine.” Jesus had been speaking about Lazarus’ death, but they thought he was talking about actual sleep.

So Jesus said very plainly, “Lazarus is dead! For your sakes I am glad that I was not there, that you might come to believe. In any event, let us go to him.” Then Thomas, ‘the Twin,’ said to the rest, “Let us go with Jesus, so that we can die with him.”

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Since Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, many people had come to console Martha and Mary about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary stayed at home with the mourners. When Martha got to Jesus, she said, “If you had been here, my brother would never have died! Yet even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask.” “Your brother will rise again!” Jesus assured her. Martha replied, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus told her, "I am the Resurrection, and I am Life: those who believe in me will live, even if they die; and those who are alive and believe in me will never die. 'Do you believe this?'"

"Yes!" Martha replied. "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, God's Only Begotten, the One who is coming into the world." When she said this, Martha went back and called her sister Mary. "The Teacher is here, asking for you," she whispered. As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went to him. Jesus had not gotten to the village yet.

Jesus was at the place where Martha had met him. Those who were there consoling her saw her get up quickly and followed Mary, thinking she was going to the tomb to mourn. When Mary got to Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "If you had been here, Lazarus would never have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the other mourners as well, he was troubled in Spirit, moved by the deepest emotions. "Where have you laid him?" Jesus asked. "Come and see," they said.

Jesus wept.

The people in the crowd began to remark, "See how much he loved him!" Others said, "He made the blind person see; why could he have not done something to prevent Lazarus' death?" Jesus was again deeply moved. They approached the tomb, which was a cave with a stone in front of it. "Take away the stone," Jesus directed.

Martha said, "Rabbi, it has been four days now. By this time there will be a stench."

Jesus replied, "Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God? So they took the stone away. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "God, thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they might believe that you sent me!"

Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

And Lazarus came out of the tomb, still bound hand and foot with linen strips, his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus told the crowd, "Untie him and let him go free."

Many of those who had come to console Martha and Mary, and saw what Jesus did, put their faith in him

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.

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.

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

Revive Thy Work, o God

CP 454

Revive thy work, O God,
thy mighty arm make bare;
speak with the voice that wakes the dead,
and make thy people hear.

Revive thy work, O God,
disturb this sleep of death;
quicken the smouldering embers now
by thine almighty breath.

Revive thy work, O God,
create soul-thirst for thee;
and hungering for the Bread of Life
O may our spirits be.

Revive thy work, O God,
exalt thy precious name;
and, by the Holy Ghost sent down,
our love for thee inflame.

Revive thy work, O God,
give refreshing showers;
the glory shall be all thine own,
the blessing, God, be ours.

Text: Albert Midlane, alt.

Music: Charles Lockhart

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, your only Son suffered death upon the cross to bring the world salvation. Accept the praise and thanksgiving 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, because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise 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

From the Falter of Breath

CP 489

From the falter of breath,
through the silence of death,
to the wonder that's breaking beyond;
God has woven a way,
unapparent by day,
for all those of whom heaven is fond.

From frustration and pain,
through hope hard to sustain,

to the wholeness here promised, there known;
Christ has gone where we fear
and has vowed to be near
on the journey we make on our own.

From the dimming of light,
through the darkness of night,
to the glory of goodness above;
God the Spirit is sent
to ensure heaven's intent
is embraced and completed in love.

From today till we die,
through all questioning why,
to the place from which time and tide flow;
angels tread on our dreams,
and magnificent themes
of heaven's promise are echoed below.

*Text: John L. Bell. © 1988 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland).
Music: Melody Scottish trad.; arr. George Black ©.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Merciful God, you have called us to your table and fed us with the bread of life. Draw us and all people to your Son, our Saviour Jesus 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

The Reign of God Is Justice and Joy

CP 631

The reign of God is justice and joy;

For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.

God's power and glory in Jesus we know;

And here and hereafter the reign shall grow.

The reign of God is mercy and grace;

The captives are freed, the sinners find place,

The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;

And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The reign of God is challenge and choice:

Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!

God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:

Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's reign is come, the gift and the goal;

In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.

The heirs of the fortune shall answer God's call;

And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

Words: Bryn Austin Rees, alt.

Music: German trad.

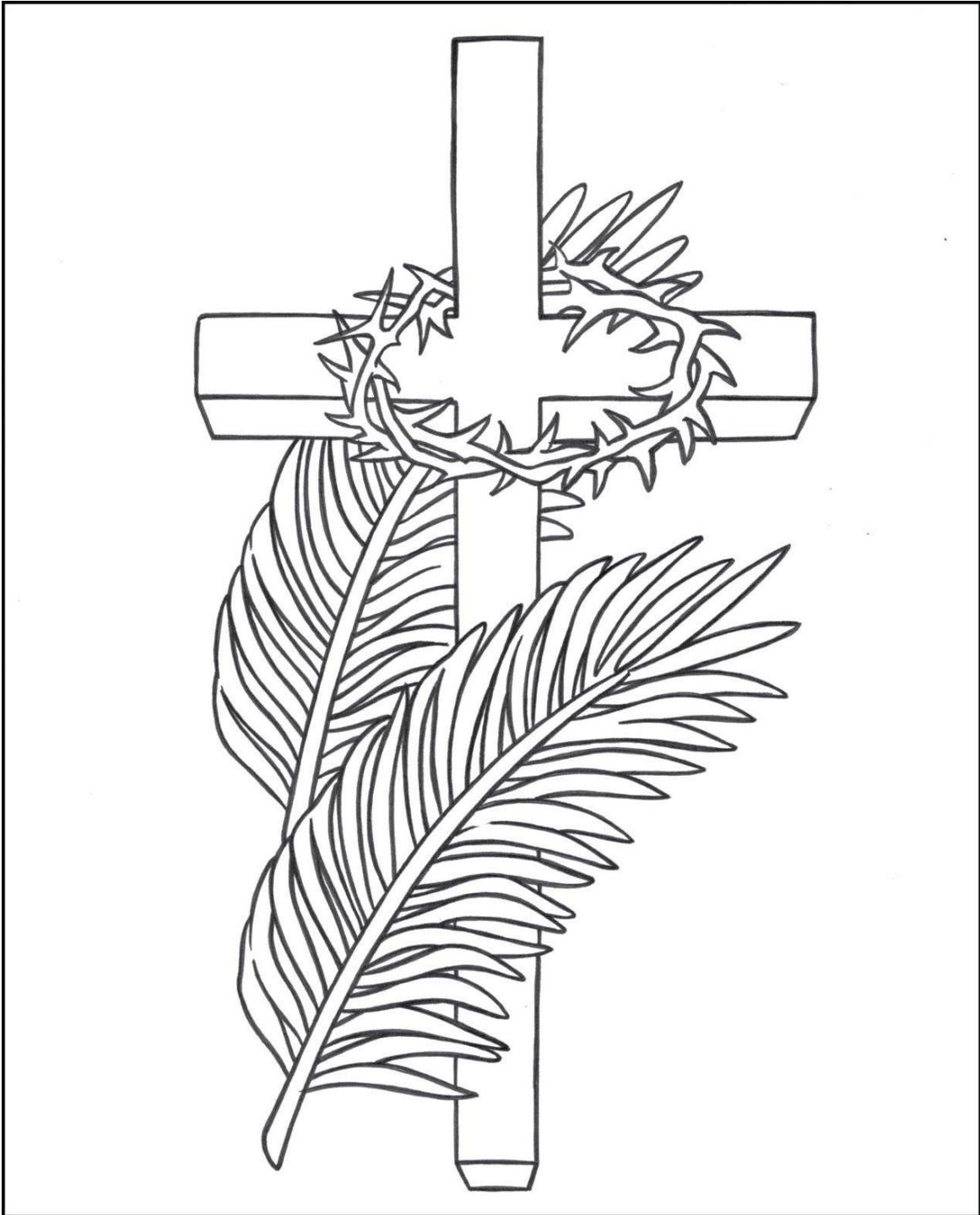
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DISMISSAL

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.

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