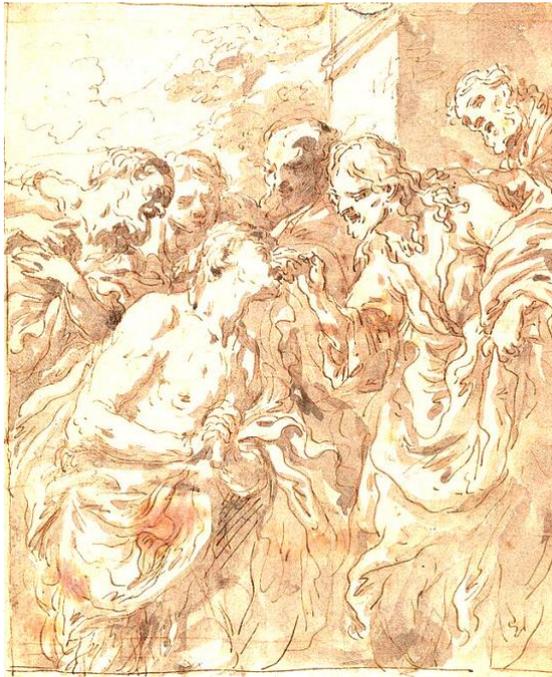


The Anglican Parish of
St. Peter and St. Paul
March 15th 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent



(Jesus Healing the Blind Man, Giuseppe Crespi (1665-1747, commons.wikimedia.org)

“Nourishing faith and community”

Prelude

Words of Welcome (Please stand as clergy enters)

Opening Hymn: Christ, Be Our Light

(Music and text: Bernadette Farrell © 1993, Published by OCP. One License)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church sent out today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

*Make us your living voice. **Refrain***

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

*shared until all are fed. **Refrain***

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

*walls made of living stone. **Refrain***

*Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. **Refrain***

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 with thy spirit.**

Almighty God,
**Unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the
thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy
Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and
worthily magnify thy 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, through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from the book of Samuel.

The Lord 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 the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you,

and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." 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 the Lord 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 the Lord; 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 the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he 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. The Lord 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 the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (sung CP519) (please remain seated)

(Text: ps. 23; para. Scottish Psalter, 1650, public domain)

*The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want:
he maketh me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.*

*My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
ever for his own name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.*

*My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,*

and my cup overflows.

*Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.*

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord 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 the Lord. 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.'

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

Gospel 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.*

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

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

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works

might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say

about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, ‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Here is

an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

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 397 Praise the One Who Breaks the

Darkness (Text: Rusty Edwards(1955-). © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: A Respository of Sacred Music: Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813.)

*Praise the one who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light.*

*Praise the one who frees the prisoners,
Turning blindness into sight.*

*Praise the one who preached the gospel,
healing every dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands
With the very bread of peace.*

*Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word,*

*Praise the one who drove out demons
with a piercing two-edged sword.*

*Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand.*

*From this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.*

*Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ who suffered in our place.*

*Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.*

*Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.*

Praise the one redeeming glory,

Praise the One who makes us one.

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.

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.**

Sending Hymn: I Am the Light of the World

(Music/Jim and Jean Strathdee Text: In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman © 1969 Desert Flower Music, One License)

Refrain:

***“I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!”
If you follow and love
you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.***

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun. **Refrain***

*To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children
with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below the sky above! **Refrain***

*To free the pris'ner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations
with strength of good will,
to see God's children ev'rywhere! **Refrain***

*To bring hope to ev'ry task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in
an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! **Refrain***

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(no alleluias during Lent)

Weekly Cycles of Prayer

In the world wide communion, we pray for The Church in Wales; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Saskatchewan, Bishop of Missinipi, The

Right Rev. Adam Halkett; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our region, we pray for St Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay, The Rev. Craig Hiebert and The Rev. Dyan Davison..

In our parish we pray for: Faye & Roy Johnson, Fred King, Rhonda Koch, Rob Bagley & Teresa Kraus, Leatrice Lam, Doreen Langmeed, Nico, Vanessa, Hypatia, and Aurelia Wilson, Marge McIntosh, Lynda Miller, and Joseph Montuz.

In our community we pray for the Esquimalt Seniors Community Centre Society.

For the month of March, we pray for the Altar Guild.

We pray for those in our parish preparing for confirmation on May 3rd at 4 pm at Christ Church Cathedral: William Bates: Roland Stacey; Julie Williams.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Lək̓ʷəŋən 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.

Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul
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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
ESQUIMALT

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