

A Service of Morning Prayer Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 15, 2026



Painting about 1712–1716 of Christ Healing the Blind Man, by Sebastiano Ricci (1659 - 1734)
Scottish National Gallery (On Display)

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will have the light of life.
John 8:12

CP 101 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

2 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing.
To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

5 O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove.
His name shall stand for ever:
that name to us is Love.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,

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 Lord. Amen.

Psalm 23 Refrain: The Lord has anointed his servant with oil

23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

23:3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

A Reading from 1 Samuel 16:1-13

16:1 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."

16:2 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.'"

16:3 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."

16:4 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?"

16:5 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.

16:6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD."

16:7 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."

16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

16:9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

16:10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

16:11 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."

16:12 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."

16:13 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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CP 349 All People That On Earth Do Dwell

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him, and rejoice.

3 O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

4 For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

A Reading from Ephesians 5:8-14

5:8 for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light

5:9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

5:10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.

5:12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly,

5:13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

5:14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 397 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the one who break 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.

2 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.

3 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.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 9:1-41

9:1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

9:2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

9:3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.

9:4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

9:6 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,

9:7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

9:8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

9:9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the he."

9:10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

9:11 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."

9:12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

9:13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

9:14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

9:15 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."

9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

9:17 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."

9:18 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

9:19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

9:20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind,

9:21 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."

9:22 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.

9:23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

9:24 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."

9:25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

9:26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

9:27 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?"

9:28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

9:29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

9:30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.

9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

9:32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

9:33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

9:34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

9:35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

9:36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

9:37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

9:38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

9:39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."

9:40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

9:41 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 to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 7054541

1 The One who made the blind to see
Is moving here in front of me
Moving here in front of me
The One who made the deaf to hear
Is silencing my ev'ry fear
Silencing my ev'ry fear

Chorus

I believe in You

I believe in You

You're the God of miracles

I believe in You

I believe in You

You're the God of miracles

2 The One who does impossible
Is reaching out to make me whole
Reaching out to make me whole
The One who put death in its place
His life is flowing through my veins
His life is flowing through my veins

Bridge

The God who was and is to come

The power of the Risen One

The God who brings the dead to life

You're the God of miracles

You're the God of miracles

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of 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 the Father.
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 compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

In the sure knowledge that God cherishes us and is always with us, let us pray to him now saying: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, Jesus withdrew from his friends and followers to spend time with you, help us to take time away from life's busyness to refocus our hearts and spirits as we wait for you. Help us to deepen our knowledge and faith in you. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for your church around the world:

- for the Anglican Church of Kenya
- for the Diocese of New Westminster: the Most Rev. John Stephens, Archbishop (Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon).
- for St. Mary, Edmonton: Travis Enright, Rector;
- for the Bleeding-Heart Art Space ministry.
- for the Buyé Diocese Bible School: Daniel Bizimana, Director; Alfred Uwimanihayé and Jerome Rivuzimana, Teachers.
- for the people and community of the Samson Cree Nation.
- for our Bishop Stephen and all Diocesan staff

- We pray for our church family here in Edmonton, our church leaders: Arthur, Sandra, Alison, Emily, and Jorge, and also for our wardens and vestry and all who lead us and support us at this time of Lent. We thank God that we are able to worship you but remember also that there are many who worship in secret, who are afraid of persecution because of their faith. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the world that there may be integrity in leadership, mercy and justice for rich and poor, strong and weak; that there may be peace among nations and respect for all. That families will be reunited and communities rebuilt. We pray that the international community will bring wisdom, trust, fairness and understanding of all sides. We earnestly pray that those who are trying hard to negotiate will be able to come up with a lasting, sustainable peace. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

In our prayers today, we pray for those waiting for an operation, those being cared for at home or hospital, and those being treated for cancer or other serious illnesses. We pray for: Sandra..... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Tony and Mary Jean..... Florence..... Lisa and Joe..... Marijke..... Diane..... Janelle..... Sandy..... Evelyn..... Sarah..... Terry..... Ken..... Monica..... Julie..... Lucas..... Helen..... Cody..... Judy..... Ruth..... Jody and Michael..... David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Melody and her family..... Pauline..... Jorge and Janine..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... Irvin and Margaret..... Ashley..... Emily..... Zaldy..... Helen and family.....those we hold close in our hearts and those known to you alone.

Let them all feel the warmth of your Holy Spirit wrapped around them, enveloping them with your love and giving all their families that strength that they need at this time. We give thanks to the carers, nurses and all the agencies that care for people in their own homes. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones recently and also those remembering an anniversary of a bereavement. We will have a moments silence to remember those loved ones.....

We remember before God those who have died. You turn our darkness into light and in your light shall we see light. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, we come to thank you for who you are and what you have done; that in Christ, you lift us when we're down, you heal us when we're hurting, you hold us when we're broken and you strengthen us when we're weak. We thank you for your love which will never be defeated and your purpose which will never end. Merciful father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect

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.

**And now, as our Saviour Christ has 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.**

CP 371 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glory, who great things has done!
 God so loved the world, freely sending the Son,
 who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
 and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear God's voice.
 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
 and give God the glory, who great things has done!***

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
 to every believer the promise of God:
 that when the offender, repenting, believes,
 through Jesus' atonement, God's pardon receives.

Refrain...

3 Great things God has taught us, great things God has done,
 and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
 but purer and higher and greater will be
 our wonder, our gladness when Jesus we see!

Refrain...

The Dismissal

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will have the light of life.

John 8:12

Let us bless the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.