



**Sunday, March 23, 2025**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uxbridge**



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### **Land Acknowledgement**

It is a great privilege to gather, share stories of faith and worship God on this beautiful territory, which we now know as Township of Uxbridge but which has been the site of human activity – and therefore storytelling and worship – for many thousands of years. We wish to honour the ancestral guardians of this land and its waterways: the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississauga and Chippewa (Anishinaabe) people. The treaties that were signed for this particular parcel of land are collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today many Indigenous peoples, including the Metis Nation continue to call this land home and act as its stewards, and this responsibility extends to all peoples, to share and care for this land for generations to come.

### **Prelude**

### **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

#### **Processional Hymn**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

**CP 384**

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.**

#### **Collect for Purity**

**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.**

## **Collect of the Day**

Father of mercy, alone we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9**

**Reader:** A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*(Isaiah 55:1-9)*

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 63:1-8**

**O God, You Are My God Alone**

O God, you are my God alone  
Whom eagerly I seek;  
Though longing fills my soul with thirst  
And leaves my body weak.  
Just like a dry and barren land  
Awaits a freshening shower  
I long within Your house to see  
Your glory and Your power.

Your faithful love surpasses life  
Evoking all my praise;

Through every day to bless Your name  
My hands in joy I raise.  
My deepest needs you satisfy  
As with a sumptuous feast;  
So, on my lips and in my heart  
Your praise has never ceased.

Throughout the night I lie in bed  
And call You, Lord, to mind,  
In darkest hours I meditate  
How God, my strength is kind;  
Beneath the shadow of Your wing  
I live and feel secure  
And daily as I follow close  
Your right hand keeps me sure.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

**Reader:** A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. *(1 Corinthians 10:1-13)*

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual**

*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

**CP 446**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

**Reader:** The Lord be with you

**People:** **And also with you**

**Reader:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam - fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'" *(Luke 13:1-9)*

**Reader:** The Gospel of Christ

**People:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Homily**

**The Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**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.**

**Choir Anthem**

*In You We Are One*

Althouse

**Prayers of the People**

**Confession and Absolution**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God, **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.**

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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you!      **And also with you!**

## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **Offertory Hymn**

*My God, How Endless Is Your Love*

**CP 353**

### **The Prayer over the Gifts**

Gracious God, we know your power to triumph over weakness. May we who ask forgiveness be ready to forgive one another, in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer 3**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

### **Sanctus**

**CP 735**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Holy, holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

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

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 forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As Jesus taught us, we pray together

**Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

### **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.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**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.**

## **Communion**

**During Communion**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**CP 606**

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of mercy and forgiveness, may we who share this sacrament live together in unity and peace, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Doxology**

**Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

## **Announcements**

**Recessional Hymn**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

**CP 565**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**(to be sung by all)**

**May the blessing of God be upon you.  
May God's love light all your way.  
May the grace of Christ enfold you  
and peace around you stay.  
May the Spirit of God dwell within you.  
May you live in joy each day.**

Text: Gordon Nodwell. Music: William Wright. From Voices United.

**Postlude**

*Prelude and Fugue (be joyous in God)*

**Bohm**

*If you have another commitment today,  
and need to depart the church during the postlude, feel free to do so quietly.*

***\*\*Many of us enjoy “Coffee and Conversation” after the service but we are in need of a few more volunteers to help. It is a simple task, made easier if there are two people per week. Coffee, tea and sugar are supplied, there are written instructions in the kitchen, and we are happy to teach you the routine. Please contact the church office or Mary Ann Eastman [maryann902@icloud.com](mailto:maryann902@icloud.com).\*\****

**Stewardship Gospel Tidbit: (Luke 13:1-9)** The fig tree which bears no fruit is useless to its owner. However, the gardener sees value in it and wants to give it one more opportunity to produce. Are your gifts lying dormant or are you nurturing them into production?

### **This Week at St. Paul’s**

**Thursday, March 27, 2025**

- 7:30 pm – Choir practice

**Friday, March 28, 2025**

- 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm – Free Community Supper in the Lower Hall

**Sunday, March 30, 2025 – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

- 10:30 am – Eucharist

**Readings for Next Sunday**

- Josiah 5:9-12
- Psalm 32
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Good Friday, April 18, 2025 – 3:00 pm – Bach in B Minor Mass** with choir and orchestra directed by Stu Beaudoin. ‘Be a supporter – sell one ticket to a friend; just give them the small poster and invite them to come.’ Tickets available at [https://starticketing.com/tktweb/event\\_view?eventCode=ODS](https://starticketing.com/tktweb/event_view?eventCode=ODS)

**For the health and comfort of those with allergies  
St. Paul’s is a “scent free” facility.**