

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST. MARK

“Drawing People to the Light”

Part of the Diocese of British Columbia
www.stmarkqualicum.ca <https://bc.anglican.ca>

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026



In a state of openness, and with a desire to learn the truth of our shared history, we acknowledge that we worship on the unceded territory of the Qualicum First Nation. We give thanks for their careful stewardship of the forests, rivers, oceans, lands and air, so that we might walk with them and celebrate the gift of the Creator. We commit to a lifelong journey of respectful understanding.

Celebrant: The Reverend Deborah Rivet

Before the service, please observe silence so that we can be in quiet prayer.

Opening Sentence The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Processional Hymn **Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer**

CP 455

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

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

People and also with you.

Celebrant Almighty God,

People 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.

Trisagion

The Trisagion is said 3 time by everyone

Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal one,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

The Collect is said by everyone

Almighty God,
Whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross. Give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace, we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever.
Amen

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Reader's Introduction to the first lesson

In this well-known vision, the prophet Ezekiel is carried by the Spirit into a valley filled with dry bones—an image of Israel's despair during exile. God asks him, "Can these bones live?" and then commands him to speak life into what seems utterly lifeless. This passage reveals God's power to restore, renew, and breathe hope into situations that appear beyond saving. It is a promise that God's Spirit can raise up new life where we least expect it.

A Reading from Ezekiel

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus, says the Lord 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 the Lord.'

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 he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus, says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he 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 the Lord 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 the Lord, 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 Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130

The Psalm is said responsively by the whole verse

Boldface indicates congregational reading

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
2. **Lord, hear my voice!**
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
3. If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
4. **But there is forgiveness with you,**
so that you may be revered.
5. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
6. **my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,**
more than those who watch for the morning.
7. O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.
8. **It is he who will redeem Israel**
from all its iniquities.

Second Reading

Romans 8: 6-11

Reader's Introduction

In this passage from Romans, Paul contrasts life lived according to the flesh with life shaped by the Spirit. He reminds us that the Spirit of God dwells within us, bringing peace, renewal, and the promise of resurrection. Here Paul proclaims that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is at work giving life to us today.

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

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, and 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 him. 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 him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Procession Morning has Broken

CP 3 verses 1, 2

Reader The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel

John 11: 1-45

Reader's Introduction to the Reading

In today's Gospel, we hear the powerful story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. It is a moment that reveals both Jesus' deep compassion and his life-giving authority. As Jesus meets Martha and Mary in their grief, he proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life," and then demonstrates that promise by calling Lazarus out of the tomb. This passage prepares us for the hope of Easter and invites us to trust in the God who brings life even out of death.

A reading from the Gospel according to John

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So, the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then

Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Reader The Gospel of Christ

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Procession Morning Has Broken

CP 3 verse 3

A Gospel reading to introduce the Address

Matthew 25:31-46

Address

Bill Purdy (KAIROS)

Celebrant: Let us pray.
Holy and gracious God,
as we journey through this Lenten season,
grant us the courage of Abraham to trust your leading,
and the openness of Nicodemus to receive your grace anew.
Nurture within us the quiet growth of your Spirit,
that we may let go of all that holds us back
and walk more deeply into your light.
Refresh our hearts, renew our minds,
and draw us ever closer to the love
you have revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
May the seeds you have planted in us today
take root and bear fruit in due season.
We ask this in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Response to the Prayer above

People Lord, in your mercy,
renew us by your Spirit.
Open our hearts to your grace,
strengthen us in faith,
and lead us into the light of Christ.
Amen.

Affirming our Christian Narrative

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

People

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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**People -Hear our Prayer****The Confession**

Celebrant 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,

People

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 Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory Hymn Out of the Depths

CP 542

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant God of wisdom,
May the light of the eternal Word,
Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
Guide us to you glory.
We ask this in his name.

People Amen.

Celebrant God is here.

People The Spirit is with us.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts and minds.

People We lift them up to God.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise

Celebrant: It is indeed right that we should praise you,
God of love, our source and our fulfillment,
for you create all things and in you we live and move and have our being.
Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.
You made us in your image.
And even though we turn from you,
again and again, you call us to yourself,
and in every age, promise liberation.
As a mother gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own,

to nurture them in the way of compassionate love.
You sent Jesus among us,
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary.
Jesus revealed your love for all Creation,
and showed us the way of reconciliation.
Having lived among us - Jesus suffered the cross,
Died,
And in rising again became the firstborn of the renewed family.
And so as we gather around your table,
With saints of every age and your beloved creation
we raise our voices and sing:

People Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are 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.

Celebrant To you be glory, almighty God,
because on the night before he died,
Jesus took bread,
when he had given thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body
which is given for you; do this to remember me.
After supper he took the cup;
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,
Poured out for you and for many;
do this to remember me.
Great is the mystery of faith.

People Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Celebrant Recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this, our
sacrifice of praise.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread
and wine that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son.

When all of creation groans, unite us in Christ and give us your hope that we might be strengthened to do your work, as your body in the world. Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit, all praise and glory be yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

David Haas

Celebrant We break the bread of life,
And that life is the light of the world.

People God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life. Amen

Invitation to The Communion Table

Celebrant Come to this table,
you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;
you who have been to this sacrament often
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed.
Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God

People Thanks be to God.

**The Healing Ministry Prayer Team and Eucharistic Team
will proceed to the Altar first for Communion.**

**If you would prefer Holy Communion brought to you in the pew, please stand
and the Eucharistic Ministers will come to you.**

Communion at the Altar Rail begins with the Choir Members.
The congregation follows afterward.

Prayer Ministry

Our healing prayer team invites you to join them to pray or give thanks to God in the narthex (entrance) during or after communion, or in the alcove under the Exit sign after the service. **Confidentiality is assured.**

Post Communion Hymn Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness CP 397

Prayers after Communion

Celebrant Creator of heaven and earth,
We thank you for these holy mysteries,
Which bring us now a share in the life to come,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Glory to God,

People 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.

Recessional Hymn Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant CP 500

Dismissal

Liturgical Assistant Go from this place with the cross on your hearts.

People With Christ, we will empty ourselves for the life of the world.

For Emergency Pastoral Care please contact:

Morag Atherstone at 250-248-6353 or Cynthia Preyser at 250-954-9122

Thank you to those who assisted in the service today.

Celebrant	Rev Deborah	Greeters	Serena & Al
Liturgical Assistant	Cynthia	Reader	John
Chalice	Cynthia & Ryan	Musical Director	Pippa
		Guitarist	Richard
Intercessor	Lally	Altar Guild	Perry

PRAYER VIGIL

We invite you to come and pray with us for the men in Clallam Bay Correction Centre (Washington)! And, to pray for the **KAIROS PRISION MINISTRY TEAM** who will be leading a three-and-a-half-day intensive Course in Christianity inside the Correction Centre.

Dates

- ❖ Wednesday, March 18th 11:00 AM at St Mark's before the 11:30 AM service
- ❖ Thursday, March 26th 5:00 PM to 0:00 PM
- ❖ Friday, March 27th 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- ❖ Saturday, March 28th 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Sunday, March 29th 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

A total of 36 hours of prayer.

40+ Inmates —40+ Team members going in.



Food for the Hungry, Drink for the Thirsty. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57571>

Announcements

St. Mark's Men's Club invites everyone in the congregation to attend the first of three Guest Speaker events the club is organizing as part of the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

This Thursday (March 26) at 10 a.m. Jerrold Paetkau will speak about his work with Manna Ministries. Jerrold is their operations manager and community pastor. Since the early 2000s Manna has been distributing food, clothing and health care services to the homeless and at-risk members of our community. Jerrold has served as a Baptist pastor and has published several Christian books on Amazon.

St. Mark's has been supporting Manna financially for a number of years and two years ago began serving bag lunches at its Saturday morning mobile clinic in Parksville.

Coffee, tea and muffins will be served in the church hall beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Jerrold speaking between 10 and 11 a.m.

- We will be making palm crosses on **Saturday, March 28, beginning at 9:30**. We have invited people from St. Mary's, Nanoose, St. Edmund's, Parksville, and Trinity, Port Alberni to join us. Instruction will be given, so if you'd like to learn, you are most welcome. Please let Sue Smith know if you're planning to attend.

(sueandjohn@shaw.ca)

- A Special Easter Tea will be held following the mid-week eucharist on **Wednesday, April 8**. Cynthia and her marvelous Hospitality team will serve tasty sandwiches and treats. All members of our parish are welcome with a special invitation going to our parishioners who find it difficult to attend a Sunday service. Come and invite a friend.

As a lay worship leader, Cynthia Preyser takes a **service at the Eagle Park Care facility** on the first Tuesday in every month. The next service will be on April 7. She would be very appreciative of some "helpers" at these services. Please consider being available for this ministry and contact Cynthia if you are interested.

St. Marks Calendar

March 23rd to March 29th

Monday March 23

9:00- 12:30 MIFAC

1:00 – 4:30 Alpine Gardeners Board Meeting

Tuesday March 24

9:00 –3:00 O.K. Quilters

4:00- 5:00 – Handbells

1:00 – Parish Council (downstairs)

Wednesday March 25

10:00- Sermon Circle

11:30- Holy Communion

12:30 – 3:00 Lenten Study

5:30 NAC

Thursday March 26

9:30 Men's Club

11:15- Choir

3:30- 52 Ways

Friday March 27

Saturday March 28

9:30 -11:30 Palm Sunday preparations

Sunday Mar 29

Palm Sunday

10:00 – Morning Prayer – BAS

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We draw the circle wide so all will find a home in the House of God
...and a place at the table of the Lord