

ALL LOVE CAN BE



the Wilderness

All Love Can Be: Lent at *The Wilderness*

“Lent” comes from a Medieval word for “lengthen”, a cue not only of the natural transition between seasons, but of the sacred calendar Christians have kept for centuries. During Lent at The Wilderness, our community will journey with Jesus through his forty days of temptation, a time in which he was offered power, wealth, and celebrity, but resisted them through practices of humility, poverty, and self-donation. One could argue that he resisted those temptations because of his divinity, but it is worth considering that he resisted them from his humanity.

In this season, we will use music, prayer, and imagination to explore how we find ourselves with questions around the possibilities of love as we work, take care of our loved ones, and piece our lives back together amidst a once- in-a-generation global pandemic. Where can you grow in love for yourself, others, God, and creation? A strained relationship? A transition at work or school? What do the places where love can grow say about God's character?

Lent is an appropriate time to reflect on the love of God in our lives. This love is always present, but it is only obvious through the soulful stillness that prayer brings. Please regard The Wilderness as a space of God's infinite tenderness towards you and yet another opportunity to reflect on all love can be.

In Lent,
Broderick

The Wilderness
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

Welcome to Saint John's Cathedral! We are glad you are here. Before the service begins, please take a moment to silence your electronic devices. Hearing Impaired guests: Hearing Loop Installed. Switch hearing aid to T-coil.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

The Wilderness Musicians

GATHERING SONG



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;
2. Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!
4. So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5. Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;



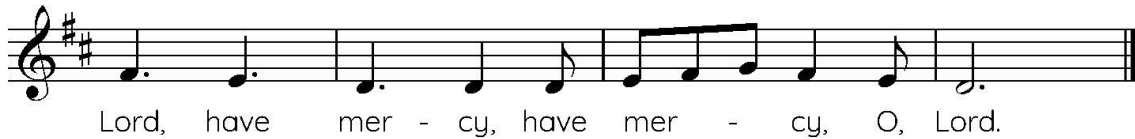
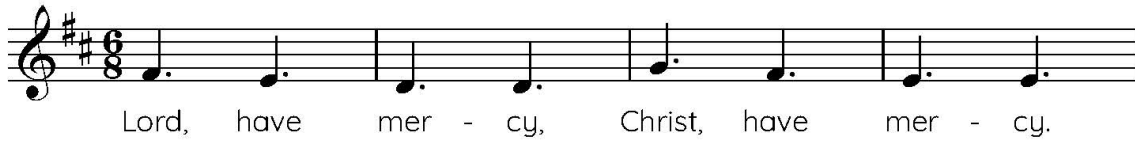
for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?
Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!
round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.
that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider In the name of the one, holy, and undivided Trinity.
People Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

As we prepare to celebrate the holy mysteries, let us confess our sins, confident in God's infinite mercy, and the promise God makes to us in Holy Baptism.



Presider God, who is in rich in mercy, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit's power, and enable you to walk in Christ's risen life forever.

People Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Presider God is with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

God our Creator,
show forth your mighty works
in the midst of your people.
Enlighten your Church,
that we may know your Son
as the true light of the world
and through our worship
confess him as Christ and Savior,
who lives and reigns with you
in union with the Holy Spirit,
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

People Amen.

All sit.

A reading from the First Book of Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I’m sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons.” “How can I do that?” Samuel asked. “When Saul hears of it he’ll kill me!” “Take a heifer with you,” the Lord replied, “and say, ‘I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you.” Samuel did what the Lord instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. “Do you come in peace?” they asked. “Yes,” Samuel answered. “I’ve come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice.” Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well. When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the Lord’s anointed right in front. But the Lord said to Samuel, “Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven’t selected him. God doesn’t look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart.” Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen this one either.” So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, “No, the Lord hasn’t chosen this one.” Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord hasn’t picked any of these.” Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Is that all of your boys?” “There is still the youngest one,” Jesse answered, “but he’s out keeping the sheep.” “Send for him,” Samuel told Jesse, “because we can’t proceed until he gets here.” So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, “That’s the one. Go anoint him.” So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The Lord’s spirit came over David from that point forward. Then Samuel left and went to Ramah.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 *The cantor alone reads.*

The Lord is my shepherd, I need nothing more.
 You give me rest in green meadows,
 setting me near calm waters, where you revive my spirit.
 You guide me along sure paths,
 you are true to your name.
 Though I should walk in death's dark valley,
 I fear no evil with you by my side,
 your shepherd's staff to comfort me.
 You spread a table before me as my foes look on.
 You soothe my head with oil; my cup is more than full.
 Goodness and love will tend me every day of my life.
 I will dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I shall live.

All stand.

MUSIC GREETING THE GOSPEL

The Cantor sings the following verse as the People stand to kiss, touch, and reverence the Gospel Book as it passes through the congregation.

Verse: I am the light of the world: anyone who follows me will have the light of life,
says the Lord.

THE GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

Presider The Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People Praise and glory to Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means sent). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see. The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him." But the man said, "Yes, it's me!" So they asked him, "How are you now able to see?" He answered, "The man they call Jesus made mud, smeared it on my eyes, and said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see." They asked, "Where is this man?" He replied, "I don't know." Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day. So Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. The man told them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see." Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." Others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs like these?" So they were divided. Some of the Pharisees questioned the man who had been born blind again: "What do you have to say about him, since he healed your eyes?" He replied, "He's a prophet." The Jewish leaders didn't believe the man had been blind and received his sight until they called for his parents. The Jewish leaders asked them, "Is this your son? Are you saying he was born blind? How can he now see?" His parents answered, "We know he is our son. We know he was born blind. But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He's old enough to speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jewish authorities. This is because the Jewish authorities had already decided that whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be expelled from the synagogue. That's why his parents said, "He's old enough. Ask him." Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner." The man answered, "I don't know whether he's a sinner. Here's what I do know: I was blind and now I see." They questioned him: "What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?" He replied, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

They insulted him: “You are his disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don’t know where this man is from.” The man answered, “This is incredible! You don’t know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes! We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners. God listens to anyone who is devout and does God’s will. No one has ever heard of a healing of the eyes of someone born blind. If this man wasn’t from God, he couldn’t do this.” They responded, “You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?” Then they expelled him. Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, “Do you believe in the Human One?” He answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you.” The man said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped Jesus. Jesus said, “I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don’t see can see and those who see will become blind.” Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, “Surely we aren’t blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you wouldn’t have any sin, but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

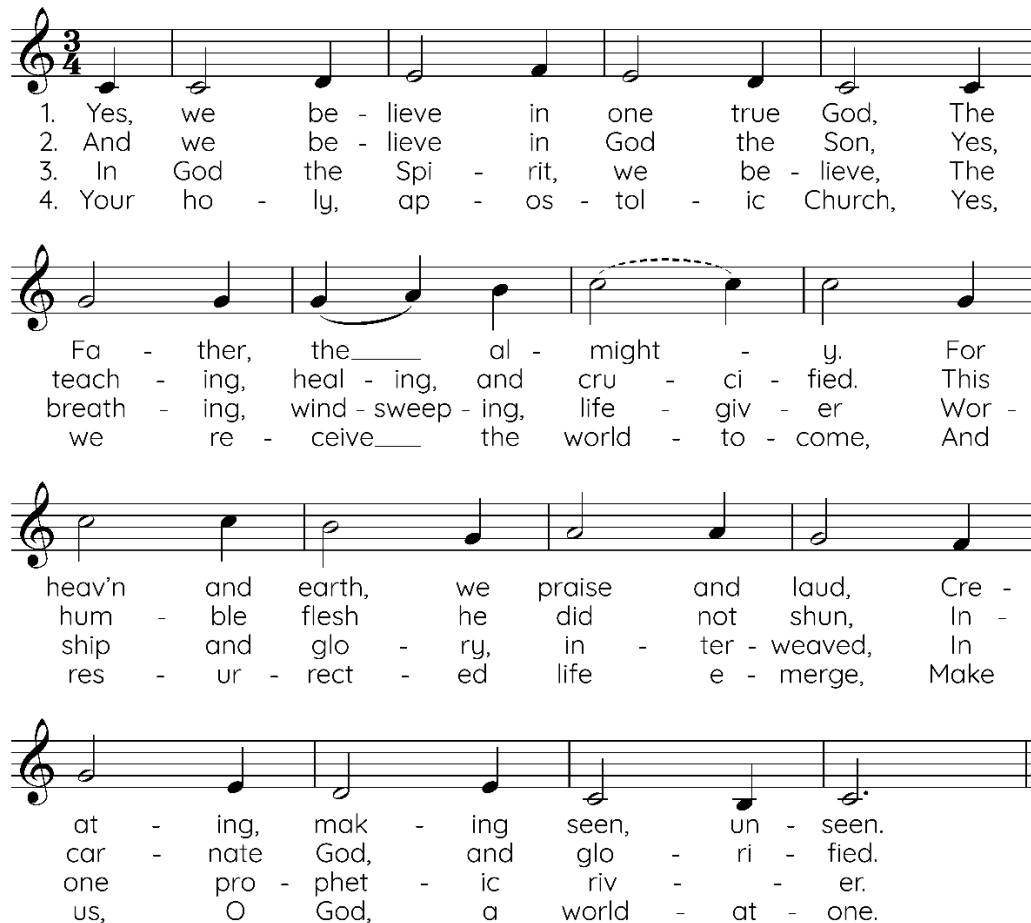
Presider Good News from the Lord.
People Praise to Christ, the Word.

The People are seated.

THE REFLECTION

All stand.

GROUNDING SONG



1. Yes, we be - lieve in one true God, The
 2. And we be - lieve in God the Son, Yes,
 3. In God the Spi - rit, we be - lieve, The
 4. Your ho - ly, ap - os - tol - ic Church, Yes,

Fa - ther, the al - might - y. For
 teach - ing, heal - ing, and cru - ci - fied. This
 breath - ing, wind - sweep - ing, life - giv - er Wor -
 we re - ceive the world - to - come, And

heav'n and earth, we praise and laud, Cre -
 hum - ble flesh he did not shun, In -
 ship and glo - ry, in - ter - weaved, In
 res - ur - rect - ed life e - merge, Make

at - ing, mak - ing seen, un - seen.
 car - nate God, and glo - ri - fied.
 one pro - phet - ic riv - er.
 us, O God, a world - at - one.

All sit. The singing bowl is rung twice for prayerful reflection.

OPEN SPACE

The People are invited to wander the Cathedral in prayer or remain in their seats.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Presider Be with us, Wandering God, as we tread new ground in this season of confession and renewal. Walk with us. Live with us. Stay with us. In your holy name.

People Amen.

THE PEACE

Presider Christ's peace is with you.

People And also with you.

The People greet one another with a sign of Peace and are then seated for announcements.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SONG All Love Can Be

Will Jennings and James Horner

All stand.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Presider God is with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is good to give thanks to you, holy God,
Creator of all things seen and unseen.
For, in Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness,
you have granted your people the power to resist evil
and the joy of recounting your faithfulness to generations yet to come.
As we prepare to celebrate the Paschal feast,
we join the song angels, archangels, saints, and martyrs forever voice before you,

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS *All sing*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might, Heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Presider continues

We praise you, Fountain of Wisdom,
because for forty days and forty nights,
you bore up the ark of your servant Noah,
imparted wisdom on your prophet Moses,
and sustained your Son Jesus as he was tempted in the wilderness.

For forty years, you accompanied your people Israel as cloud and fire,
delivering them from the hands of their oppressors;
fed them as manna and quail;
rejoiced over them in the song of your prophet Miriam;
and in due season, brought forth from them your Word Incarnate,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it,
and gave it to his friends, and said,
“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”
After the meal, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

Joyfully recalling Jesus, crucified and risen, healing and renewing, forgiving and blessing:

People Incarnate God,
Crucified Lord,
Risen Christ:
Come in your power.

And now, faithful God,
we your people by water and the Word,
ask you to pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine,
making them the body and blood of Christ,
broken and offered for the life of the world.

In your mercy,
gather into one body every part of your fragmented creation,
making present on earth the joy of heaven.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in union with the Holy Spirit,
all praise, honor, and glory is yours,
merciful God, for ever and ever.

The people and musicians sing Amen.

Silence.

As Jesus taught his friends, we now pray,

Presider and People

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

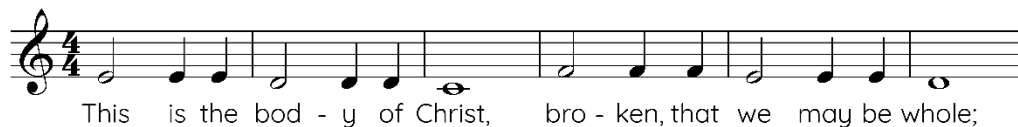
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.

Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider and assistant break the Bread and fill the chalices with Wine.



THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Table now is ready. Feast on Christ.

Following the invitation to Communion, the Ministers and People receive the Sacrament.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

The Wilderness Musicians

All stand.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider

Let us pray.

Presider and People

At this altar, holy God, your people have feasted on the food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Strengthen us to live lives of love, to speak words of healing, and to mend the world you created. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Presider

May your forty-day journey with Jesus ground you with peace, uphold you with joy, and surprise you with love. And the blessing of the one, holy, and undivided Trinity be upon you this day and remain with you always.

People Amen.

CLOSING SONG



1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un-to me and rest;
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be-hold, I free - ly give
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



and in your wea - ri - ness lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv-ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop down and drink, and live."
look un-to me, thy morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun; and



found in_ him a rest - ing_ place, and he has made me glad.
thirst was_ quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
in that_ light of life I'll_ walk till pil - grim days are done.

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace. Remember the poor.
People Thanks be to God.

PRESIDER

The Reverend Amy Newell-Large *Curate for Parish Life*

HOMILIST

The Right Reverend Dan Edwards *Bishop in Residence*