



Holy Eucharist
Sunday March 27 at 10:00 am
The Fourth Sunday of Lent
St. Mary's la Prairie
36 2nd St. S.W. Portage la Prairie
204-857-3931 - stmarys1@shaw.ca
<https://stmaryslaprairie.ca>

We acknowledge that we meet on Treaty 1 Land, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota people and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and serve God the Creator here

The community is called to attend to the presence of God by a tone from the sounding bowl.

The Gathering of the Community BAS p. 216

Presider 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.**

Presider Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Presider 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Confession and Absolution BAS p. 217

Presider 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.

Silence is kept.

Presider 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.**

Presider 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.**

The Collect

Spendthrift Lover of our wayward race,
you open your arms to accept us
even before we turn to meet your welcome;
you invite us to forgiveness
even before our hearts are softened to repentance.
Hold before us the image of our humanity made new,
so that we may live in Jesus Christ, your new creation. Amen.

Hymn 177 A Spendthrift Lover is the Lord

A spendthrift lover is the Lord
who never counts the cost
or asks if heaven can afford
to woo a world that's lost.
Our lover tosses coins of gold
across the midnight skies
and stokes the sun against the cold
to warn us when we rise.

Still more is spent in blood and tears
to win the human heart,
to overcome the violent fears
that drive the world apart.
Behold the bruised and thorn-crowned face
of one who bears our scars
and empties out the wealth of grace
that's hinted by the stars.

How shall we love this heart-strong God
who gives us everything,
whose ways to us are strange and odd:
what can we give or bring?
Acceptance of the matchless gift
is gift enough to give.
The very act will shake and shift
the way we love and live.

Joshua 5:9-12

9 The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. **11** On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. **12** The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32 BAS P. 742

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. **17** So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ,

and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. **20** So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People. **Thanks be to God.**

The Proclamation of the Gospel

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

634 Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me

when you come into your kingdom. X2

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus

Christ according to Luke

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

Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3 So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. **16** He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. **17** But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough

and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! **18** I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”” **20** So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. **21** Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22** But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; **24** for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. **25** “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. **27** He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ **28** Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. **29** But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ **31** Then the father[e] said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

634 Jesus, Remember Me

**Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom. X2**

Message

Prayers of the People

Be glad and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all you who are true of heart. Having been reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us pray, "Lord, let your mercy embrace us; **Accept our prayer.**"

Gracious God, you have entrusted to your Church the ministry of reconciliation. Reconcile our members to you and to each other, and then work through us to embrace the world. Lord, let your mercy embrace us; **Accept our prayer.**

Open our hearts to welcome sinners as we have been welcomed. Give us eyes to see others, not from the human point of view, but as you see them. Lord, let your mercy embrace us; **Accept our prayer.**

Jesus, you are the true bread which gives life to the world: evermore give us this bread that our souls may be satisfied. And satisfy our bodies with abundant produce from the land. Lord, let your mercy embrace us; **Accept our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for families. Restore broken relationships. Heal those who have suffered betrayal and alienation. Comfort those for whom reconciliation in this life is not possible. Shield those with reason to celebrate. Lord, let your mercy embrace us; **Accept our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the Ukraine. Provide for those who have fled their homes as a result of the war, comfort those who have lost loved ones and surround with your light those sheltering in place from the bombs and shelling. Bring peace to that nation and restore equitable relationships between Russia and all her neighbours. Lord, let your mercy embrace us; **Accept our prayer.**

You God are a hiding place for those in trouble: you deliver the oppressed; you forgive the guilty; you roll away the disgrace of your people. We make our prayers to you for those in trouble particularly all those on our prayer list a selection of whom we name now: Bob Calder and family, Jane, Jess Julia, Jocelyn and Joyce Grant and Bev Towle in the hospital. Lord, let your mercy embrace us;

Accept our prayer.

Holy Jesus, it is our prayer that you may live in us, and we in you, both in this life and for all eternity. Lord, let your mercy embrace us;

Accept our prayer.

Offertory Hymn 447 Lord, We Hear Your Word

1 Lord, we hear your word with gladness:
you have spoken– we rejoice:
words of love and life and freedom–
help us make their truth our choice!
Now in holy celebration
for your Word we worship you;
spoken, written, known in Jesus,
ours today to prove anew.

2 May we hear with understanding,
by your Spirit taught and led;
may the springs of all our being
by your living Word be fed;
may our hearts accept with meekness
all the grace your light makes known;
may obedience mark our footsteps
till we make each word our own!

3 You have spoken; yours the fullness,
ours the wealth of this your Word:
debtors, then as living letters,
we must make your gospel heard!
By your Spirit's power transform us;
shed your saving light abroad
till our lives by love in action
show our world the truth of God!

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Let us pray:

God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer (Eucharistic Prayer #2 BAS p. 196)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant We give you thanks and praise,
almighty God,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Redeemer.
He is your living Word, through whom
you have created all things

By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh of the Virgin Mary
and shared our human nature.
He lived and died as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the Source and God of all.

In fulfillment of your will
he stretched out his hands in suffering,
to bring release to those who place their
hope in you;
and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,
and to give up his life on the cross,
that he might shatter the chains of evil
and death, and banish the darkness
of sin and despair.
By his resurrection he brings us into
the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

(Sung)
All

**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.**

Celebrant Holy and gracious God,
accept our praise,
through your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
took bread and gave you thanks,
saying, "Take, and eat:
this is my body which is broken for you."

In the same way he took the cup,
saying, "This is my blood
which is shed for you.
When you do this,
you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death
and resurrection,
we offer you this bread and this cup,
giving thanks that you have made us
worthy to stand in your presence
and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit
upon the offering of your holy Church.
Gather into one
all who share in these sacred mysteries,
filling them with the Holy Spirit
and confirming their faith in the truth,
that together we may praise you
and give you glory
through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours,
Creator and Redeemer,
with the Holy Spirit
in the holy Church,
now and for ever.

People

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ
has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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 (#7 BAS p. 213)

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.**

*The congregation comes forward to retrieve a host, when all who wish
have a host, masks are removed*

The Celebrant says:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
All **Thanks be to God**

Then all consume their host. Once you have consumed the host please replace your mask.

The teaching of the Church is that the fullness of Christ is present in only one of the elements.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant. Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage;
may our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms, a making of peace;
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Glory to God,
All **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.**

Blessing

Celebrant May the love of Jesus
draw us to himself;
May the power of Jesus
strengthen us in his service;
May the joy of Jesus
fill our souls.
May the blessing of God,
Source of all being,
eternal Word and Holy Spirit
be amongst you and
remain with you and those you love
now and always. Amen

Closing Hymn 54 Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

Bread of the world, in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead:
look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed;
and be thy feast to us the token
that by thy grace our souls are fed.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

A note on the prayer list

We will once more be including our prayer list. If there is someone on the list who should be removed please let me know. Likewise if you would like to add a name to the list please let me know. We will include five names from the list in our intercession each Sunday.

Prayer List

Bev Braden, Brad, Bob Calder, Erik, Jan and family, Anne Clairmont, Mason Clairmont, Vickie Donald, Linda Downing, Elaine, Gerald, Glenn, George, Joyce Grant, Bill & Jane Human, Rod Knott, Jackson, Jason, Jane, Jess, Julia, Jocelyn, Joe, Kelsey, Kirby, Myrtle Kenny, Fran Laakso, Malcolm, Maureen, Mavis, Michael Logan, Ivy Muir, Misty Potts, Phyllis Moar, Clive Morgan, Nori, Donna Pacholuk, Colten Pratt, Marcel Ricard, Rick, Marilyn Roteliuk, Jamie and Tryli Shorting, Scott, Eva Shewchuk, Sharon Skoropata, John Stairs, Bev Towle, Tammy and David and family, Wendy Twiss, Mary Wildfang, Vicki

Lenten Visual Display

When Jesus was thirsty on the cross, a sponge was soaked with wine vinegar and lifted to his lips. The crown of thorns were the finalizing of their mockery, taking a symbol of royalty/majesty, a crown and turning it into something painful and degrading. Three nails were used to hang the body of our Lord.

Next Sunday's readings Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8

The Thrift Shop will be open Tuesday to Thursday from 10:30 am until 4 pm

Saturday April 9 at 9:30 Parish Breakfast The speaker for this first Breakfast in two years will be Stuart White who is a Computer Science Engineer and the vice president of a retail operating systems company with branches in several countries. Stuart is married to Sian a teacher and they live in a suburb of London. Stuart is best known in Portage la Prairie as the daughter of Graham and Carlyn White. Stuart's talk is Illustrated Meanderings Through Europe and Ukraine. If you are planning to attend please let the office know 204-857-3931 or stmarys1@shaw.ca by **Thursday April 7.**

We have also decided to reinstate coffee time after church. We are going to begin on **Sunday April 10 with a Pizza lunch** provided by Graham and Carlyn White. There will be a donation basket available at the entrance for a Thanksgiving offering. If you are planning to attend please let the office know 204-857-3931 or stmarys1@shaw.ca by **Thursday April 7.**

Walk for St. Mary's Update

A big thank you to Alan and Mary for their continued walking for St. Mary's. A reminder Alan had walked 250.2 miles and Mary 242.37 by the end. of February. We are looking forward to their March update, thank you to everyone who has donated and pledged so far. If you would like to join in there are pledge sheets available at the back of the Church.

Newsletter - the **deadline** for the **Easter Newsletter** is **April 3**

Habitat for Humanity is beginning to plan its next build in Portage la Prairie. If you are interested in affordable home ownership and want to know more about the criteria and application process, then you are encouraged to attend a Public Information Meeting on April 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Portage Family Resource Centre (234 Princess Avenue next to the Cinema Centre). Everyone is welcome!

Masks in Church - I know that this is a topic of much interest. In his most recent guidelines Bishop Woodcroft said in part, *“parish vestries and councils, with the concurrence of their Incumbents, may follow their respective provincial government COVID health protocols/orders in all regards. However, vestries and councils need not do so and may continue using safeguards that they believe necessary for the health and wellbeing of their congregation.”* As a result at our Vestry Meeting of March 24 the decision was taken that St. Mary’s would **recommend** the use of masks in Church.