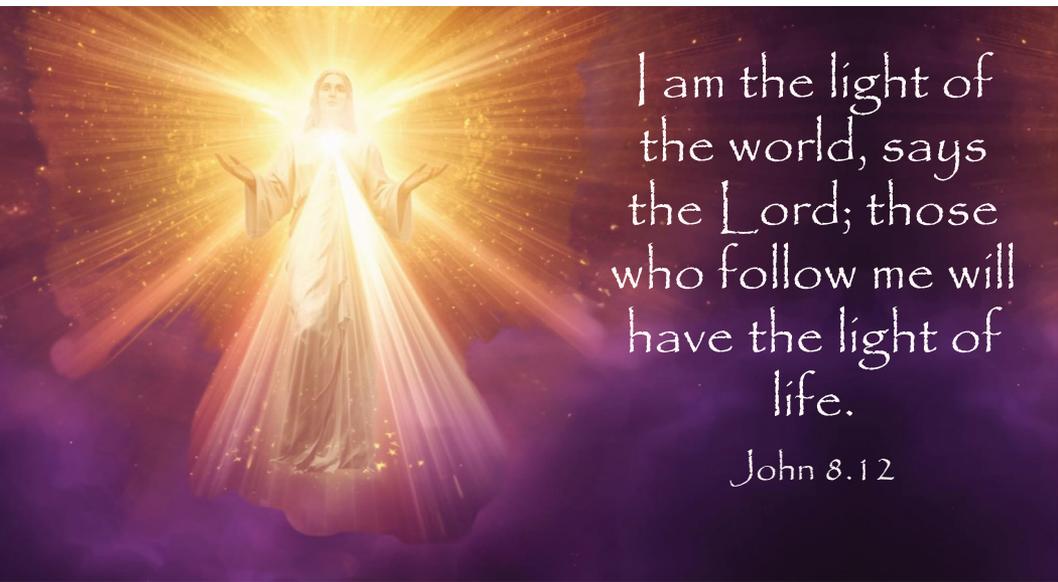




# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent



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

John 8.12

Sunday, March 15, 2026  
with Fr Theo Ipema



The Church of  
**ST STEPHEN**  
Downsview

**2259 Jane St, North York ON, M3M1A6**

First time at St Stephen's?  
See what we're about!



## 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.

## 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

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." 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.' 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." 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?" 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. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." 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."

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 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." 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."

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.

## PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways  
for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## EPHESIANS 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

## JOHN 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 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, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent).

Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 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."

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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." 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. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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 be-come his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as

for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

## Prayer over the Gifts

God of light,  
your Word brings to us a new vision of your glory.  
Accept our offering of praise and thanksgiving,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Prayer After Communion

Father,  
through your goodness  
we receive your Son in word and sacrament.  
May we always have faith in him,  
Jesus Christ the Lord.

*Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

**EZEKIEL 37:1-14, PSALM 130  
ROMANS 8:6-11, JOHN 11:1-45**

from our website...  
**http://STSTEPHENSDownsview.ca**  
...and our weekly email newsletter

**WORSHIP  
THIS  
WEEK**



### SET YOUR CALENDAR FOR...

- \*Sunday Worship 9AM & 11AM
- \*Morning Prayers (see below)
- \*Devotions TUE 7PM



**Fellowship  
down stairs**

### COFFEE, TEA, SNACKS...

Join us in the Parish Hall after worship for fellowship... and... coffee, tea, and snacks.



### 7PM Fridays, Feb 20 to Mar 27

Join us in the St Stephen's Sanctuary, 7PM Fridays, for "Station of The Cross"



### Holy Week: Mar 29th to Apr 5th

9AM & 11AM SUN: Palm Sunday  
with real palm fronds

7PM THUR: Maundy Thursday

10AM FRI: Good Friday

9AM & 11AM SUN: Easter Sunday



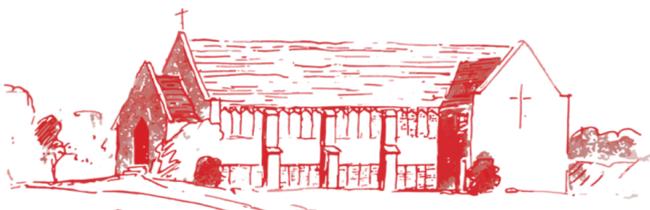
### Feb 18 to Apr 2

During Lent, set aside \$5 every day, as a lentan tithe.



### Step Into Ministry at St. Stephen!

Ministry descriptions available on our website. Talk to a warden to volunteer.



In-Person Office Hours  
(Parish Office)

2259 Jane St, North York ON, M3M 1A6  
Wednesdays & Fridays,  
11:00AM to 2:00PM

Voice, Text, WhatsApp  
(Parish Office)

416-241-4639  
ststephendownsvie  
@toronto.anglican.ca

Pastoral Care  
& Wardens

cw-ststephendownsvie  
@toronto.anglican.ca

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@toronto.anglican.ca



[HTTPS://](https://)

Give Online

[give.ststephendownsvie.ca](https://give.ststephendownsvie.ca)

Livestream  
(Live on YouTube)

[livestream.ststephendownsvie.ca](https://livestream.ststephendownsvie.ca)

Worship Service Replay  
(YouTube)

[replay.ststephendownsvie.ca](https://replay.ststephendownsvie.ca)

One-Minute Clips  
(YouTube)

[clips.ststephendownsvie.ca](https://clips.ststephendownsvie.ca)

Space [Availability](https://space.ststephendownsvie.ca)

[space.ststephendownsvie.ca](https://space.ststephendownsvie.ca)

# Order Of Service

## READINGS

EXODUS 24:12-18

PSALM 99

2 PETER 1:16-21

[bb139 Great Is Thy...](#)

MATTHEW 17:1-9

## OFFERTORY

Offering

[bb409 Thanks to God...](#)

Prayer Over the Gifts



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Email Newsletter



## WELCOME

The Opening Sentence

[bb450 Lift High The Cross](#)

The Gathering

kyrie eleison

The Collect

## MEDITATION

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Peace

## EUCCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer & Silence

Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of Bread

The Communion

[bb089 Jesus, The Very...](#)

[bb684 Precious Lord, ...](#)

[bb690 He Leadeth Me...](#)

[bb611 He Hideth My Soul](#)

Prayer After Communion

The Blessing

## CLOSE

[bb510 Heaven Came Down](#)

Dismissal

After Worship Fellowship