



# St John the Evangelist

Scottish Episcopal Church, Jedburgh  
A community of welcome in the Borders

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

## **Third Sunday of Lent**

**10.00**

### **COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT**

*Led by: **Paul Beck***

**Hymn 333**

All my hope on God is founded

### **PREPARATION**

*(page 1, blue service book)*

Collect

Merciful Father, we have no power in ourselves  
to help ourselves:

when we are discouraged by our weakness,  
give us strength to follow Christ, our pattern  
and our hope;

who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**Amen**

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*(page 4, blue service book)*

Reading:

Isaiah 55:1 – 9

*(p. 712, pew Bible)*

Psalms 63

**My soul thirsts for you, O my God.**

**Hymn 365**

God moves in a mysterious way

Gospel:

Luke 13:1 – 9

Sermon, Creed, Intercessions, Peace

*(pages 4 – 6)*

**Hymn 94**

We sing the praise of him who died

**THANKSGIVING PRAYER AND COMMUNION**

*(turn to the blue RS leaflet, page 2)*

**At Communion:** *there is hand gel on the way to the altar rail for those who wish to handle the chalice themselves. Please do not intinct (dip your wafer in the wine).*

Prayer after Communion     *We use prayer (c):*  
**“Loving God ...”**

**Hymn 234**     Christ, whose glory fills the skies

Dismissal

***We pray especially today for***  
Grace Lancaster, Linda Grant, Elizabeth Bentley

***Dear Friends and People of God,***

Please join me in this paraphrased conversation I imagine Jesus having with his disciples:

‘Jesus, did you hear about the Slaughter at the Synagogue? Some worshippers were offering sacrifices when Pilate’s troops came in and killed them for no reason. Why were those particular people killed and not anyone else? Was their time up?’

Jesus had heard these sentiments before. When they were standing by the pool at Siloam, one of his own disciples pointed out the blind man who was approaching them and asked: ‘Is it his fault or his parents’ fault that he is blind?’

So, Jesus replies: ‘Did you hear about the Tower of Doom that toppled and killed 18 construction workers the other day? Are you forgetting about the victims of the recent

storms in the UK? Have you been to the cancer ward lately? And what about the tragic conflict in Ukraine?' He goes on: 'Are you trying to make a correlation between sin and tragedy? Are you implying that the victims were worse sinners than everyone around them? No!'

Not the answer they wanted to hear, but the answer and challenge they **needed** to hear: That there was no reason for those people to die at that time under those circumstances. It had nothing to do with their spiritual standing, their moral make-up, their ethnic background or their day by day behaviour.

Jesus tells them and us: 'When you read or hear or see these events happening, stop playing the "Spot the sin"-game.' When we hear news such as this, let us give thanks for our lives and pray for the victims and all affected.'

And then Jesus says something else, something difficult: 'Unless you repent, you will die just as they did.' Cause and effect after all, Jesus? No, I think not. Rather: 'Treat every tragic event as an opportunity to reform yourselves. Think of it as another chance, as a chance to reflect and repent, and return to the Lord.'

For the time to repent, the time to turn our lives around, the time to do what we know we need to do, is now. The time to say "I love you" is now. The time to say "I'm sorry," is now. The time to say "I forgive you" is now. The time to say "I need you" is now. The time to do that thing we have always wanted to do, always meant to do, know we ought to do, is now.

And the time to give our lives to Christ anew, the time to bear fruit, fruit that will last, is now, this Lent, as we prepare to walk with our Lord the way of his cross and passion, and be drawn with him into life in all its fullness.

***With my love and prayers: Andi***

Discipleship



## What about a Spiritual MOT for Lent?

Revd Andi is available by appointment to meet for a Pastoral conversation, for Prayer and Anointing, or to hear Confession if you wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

- ✓ Our weekly **Lent Course** – ‘Live Lent: Embracing Justice’ – continues on Thursday mornings following the midweek communion, starting at 11.00. All welcome!
- ✓ Abbey Consort performs **Viva Vivaldi!** at Melrose Parish Church on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm and at St. Andrew’s, Kelso on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 3.00pm: £15

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Priest-in-Charge

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**Toilets** are available next door in St. John’s Old School at the end of the downstairs corridor.

*Our welcomers have the key to the front door.*