

St. James Parish Church

Holetown, St. James, Barbados

TO BE A BEACON RADIATING GOD'S LOVE AMONG ALL PEOPLE

The Easter Vigil

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

APRIL 4, 2026

7:30 P.M.



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THE EASTER VIGIL

SERVICE OF LIGHT

In the darkness, fire is kindled. The President may then greet the people and address them in these or similar words.

Dear friends in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ
passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord.

We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his
word and celebrating his mysteries;
we are confident that we shall share his victory over
death and live with him for ever in God.

The President may say the following prayer.

Let us pray

Father,
we share in the light of your glory
through your Son, the light of the world.
Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope.
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration
and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE CANDLE

Any or all of the following rites may be used, depending on local circumstances.

After the blessing of the new fire, a lay person or one of the ministers brings the pascal candle to the celebrant, who cuts a cross in the wax and traces the Greek letter alpha above the cross, the letter omega below, and the numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross.

Meanwhile he may say,

- 1. Christ yesterday and today (as he traces the vertical arm of the cross)*
- 2. the beginning and the end (the horizontal arm)*
- 3. Alpha (alpha, above the cross)*
- 4. and Omega (omega, below the cross)*
- 5. all time belongs to him (the first numeral, in the upper left corner of the cross)*
- 6. and all the ages (the second numeral in the upper right corner)*
- 7. to him be glory and power (the third numeral in the lower left corner)*
- 8. through every age for ever. Amen. (the last numeral in the lower right corner)*

When the cross and other marks have been made, the President may insert five grains of incense into the candle. He does this in the form of a cross, saying,

- 1 by his holy*
- 2 and glorious wounds*
- 3 may Christ our Lord*
- 4 guard us*
- 5 and keep us. **Amen.***

*The President lights the candle from the new fire, saying,
May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.*

*The deacon (a priest if there is no deacon) takes the
paschal candle, lifts it high, and sings,*

The Light of Christ

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

*The procession enters the church, led by the deacon with
the paschal candle. At a suitable place the deacon lifts
the candle high, and sings a second time,*

The Light of Christ.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

*If candles have been distributed to the congregation,
they may be lighted now or when the procession ends.
The procession continues until the deacon arrives before
the altar. Turning to face the people, the deacon sings a
third time,*

The Light of Christ.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

*Other candles and lamps in the church may now be
lighted. The paschal candle is placed in its stand in the
middle of the sanctuary or near the lectern. The deacon,
or other person appointed, standing near the candle,
sings or says the Exultet.*

THE EXULTET

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!

Jesus Christ our King is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
Echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you

ALL: **And also with you.**

PRESIDENT: Lift up your hearts

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PRESIDENT: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

ALL: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

PRESIDENT:

It is indeed right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, the unseen God, the Father Almighty, and your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has ransomed us by his death, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin. For this is the Passover of that true Lamb of God, by whose blood the homes of all the faithful are hallowed and protected.

This is the night when of old you saved our fathers, delivering the people of Israel leading them dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell and rose triumphant from the grave. This

is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin and restored to grace and holiness.

Most blessed of all nights, when heaven is wedded to earth and all creation reconciled to God! Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.

And grant that this Easter candle may make our darkness light; for Christ the Morning Star has risen, never again to set and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

After the Exultet, if candles are being held, they may be extinguished.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Before the readings begin, the President may speak to the people in these or similar words.

Dear friends in Christ,

let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling how he saved his people throughout history and in the fullness of time, sent his own Son to be our Redeemer.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1: [GENESIS 1:1-2:4A](#)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the

light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky

to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and

multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

PSALM 136: 1-9, 23-26

- 1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
- 2 O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
- 3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

- 4 who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- 5 who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- 6 who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- 7 who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- 8 the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- 9 the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- 23 It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- 24 and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- 25 who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
- 26 O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Refrain:

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made.

Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation, by which in the fullness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

EXODUS 14:10-15:1

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I

will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn

the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

CANTICLE: THE SONG OF MOSES

EXODUS 15:1-3, 6, 11, 13, 17-18

I will sing to the Lord for his glorious triumph;*
the horse and the rider he has hurled into the sea.
The Lord has become my strength and refuge;*
the Lord himself has become my saviour.

He is my God and I will praise him;*
my father's God and I will exalt him.
The Lord himself is a mighty warrior;*

the Lord, the Lord is his name.

Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power;*
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
Who is like you, O Lord, among the Gods,*
holy, awesome, worker of wonders?

In steadfast love you led your people,*
you guided your redeemed with your great
strength.

You brought them in safety to your holy place,*
and planted them firm on your own mountain.
You brought them into your own house.*
The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

Refrain:

I will sing to the Lord for his glorious triumph.

PRAYER

God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of baptism. Grant that all the people of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROVERBS 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4B-6

Does not wisdom call,

and does not understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
"To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.
O simple ones, learn prudence;
acquire intelligence, you who lack it.
Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips will come what is right;
for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

"My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,
and my yield than choice silver.
I walk in the way of righteousness,
along the paths of justice,
endowing with wealth those who love me,
and filling their treasuries."

To those without sense she says,
"Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

PSALM 19

1. The heavens declare the glory of God, *

- and the firmament shows his handiwork.
2. One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
 3. Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
 4. Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
 5. In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his
chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
 6. It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the
heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
 7. The law of the LORD is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
 8. The statutes of the LORD are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
 9. The fear of the LORD is clean
and endures for ever; *

the judgments of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

10. More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.
11. By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
12. Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
13. Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous
sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
14. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

REFRAIN:

The statutes of the Lord rejoice the heart.

PRAYER

Creator Of the universe, Source of all light, teach us to hold fast to the ways of wisdom, that we may live for ever in the radiance of your glory. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our iour. **Amen.**

EZEKIEL 36:24-28

Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

PSALM 42

- 1 As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
- 2 My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
- 3 My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'
- 4 These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:

how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of
God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

6 My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.

7 Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.

8 By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

9 I say to God, my rock,
'Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?'

10 As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'

11 Why are you cast down, O my soul,

and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

PSALM 43

- 1 Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people;
from those who are deceitful and unjust
deliver me!
- 2 For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?
- 3 O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.
- 4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.
- 5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

Refrain:

***As the deer longs for water-brooks, so longs my soul for
you, O God.***

PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, in the paschal mystery you established the new covenant of reconciliation. Grant that all who are born again in baptism may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3. ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

PSALM 98

1. Sing to the LORD a new song, * for he has done marvelous things.
2. With his right hand and his holy arm * has he won for himself the victory.
3. The LORD has made known his victory; * his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, * and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
5. Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; * lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
6. Sing to the LORD with the harp, * with the harp and the voice of song.
7. With trumpets and the sound of the horn * shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
8. Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, * the lands and those who dwell therein.

9. Let the rivers clap their hands, * and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.
10. In righteousness shall he judge the world * and the peoples with equity.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Refrain:

Lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

Prayer

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery. By the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God, You are God, or some other suitable song of praise is sung. Bells may be rung, according to local custom.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One;
you alone are the Lord:
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

PRESIDENT: Let us pray

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light 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.

Amen.

THE NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

ROMANS 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

PSALM 114

1. Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, * the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
2. Judah became God's sanctuary * and Israel his dominion.
3. The sea beheld it and fled; * Jordan turned and went back.
4. The mountains skipped like rams, * and the little

hills like young sheep.

5. What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? * O Jordan,
that you turned back?
6. You mountains, that you skipped like rams? * you
little hills like young sheep?
7. Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, * at
the presence of the God of Jacob,
8. Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. **Amen.**

Refrain: Alleluia

THE HYMN FOR THE GRADUAL: 169

1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness!
God hath brought his Israel
into joy from sadness:
loosed from Pharoah's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.
2. 'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death

as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

3. Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.
4. Alleluia now we cry
to our King Immortal,
who triumphant burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
alleluia, with the Son
God the Father praising;
alleluia yet again
to the Spirit raising.

YEAR A: THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:1-10

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His

appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

THE SERMON

A silence for reflection may follow.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

For use when there are no candidates for baptism or confirmation. The following thanksgiving for water may be sung or said.

PRESIDENT: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PRESIDENT:

We thank you for the gift of water.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith.

We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

To Him, to You and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The President may address the people in these or similar words.

DEAR FRIENDS,

through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in His holy catholic Church.

PRESIDENT: Do you declare and promise that you will,

with the help of God, live you life in the faith of Christ into which you were baptised?

PEOPLE: I do.

PRESIDENT: Do you believe in God the Father?

PEOPLE: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

PRESIDENT:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

PEOPLE:

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

PRESIDENT:

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE:

**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

PRESIDENT: Will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in breaking of bread and in the prayers?

PEOPLE: I will.

PRESIDENT: Will you persevere in resisting evil and repent whenever you fall into sin?

PEOPLE: I will.

PRESIDENT: Will you be a witness in your daily life to God's saving work in Christ?

PEOPLE: I will.

PRESIDENT: Will you seek and serve Christ by loving your neighbour as yourself remembering that every person is loved and valued by God?

PEOPLE: I will.

PRESIDENT: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

PEOPLE: I do, and with God's help I will follow Christ as my Saviour and Lord.

The President may sprinkle the assembled congregation with water from the font as a reminder of their baptism.

The President concludes the Renewal of Baptismal Vows with the following:

God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May he keep us faithful to our calling, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

PRESIDENT:

We are the Body of Christ. By the one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, and have all been made to drink of the one Spirit.

ALL:

Let us then pursue the things that make for peace and build up the common life.

PRESIDENT

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

ALL: And also with you.

The President and people shall greet one another in the name of the Lord.

SONG OF PEACE: LET THERE BE PEACE

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment

With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

OFFERTORY HYMN: 374

1. O praise our great and gracious Lord,
And call upon His Name;
To strains of joy tune every chord,
His mighty acts proclaim;
Tell how He led His chosen race
To Canaan's promised land;
Tell how His covenant of grace
Unchanged shall ever stand.
2. He gave the shadowing cloud by day,
The moving fire by night;
To guide His Israel on their way,
He made their darkness light;
And have we not a sure retreat,
A Saviour ever nigh,
The same clear light to guide our feet,
The Dayspring from on high?
3. We, too, have manna from above,
The Bread that came from Heaven;
To us the same kind hand of love
Hath living waters given;
A Rock have we, from whence the spring
In rich abundance flows;
The Rock is Christ, our Priest, our King,
Who life and health bestows.

4. O may we praise this blessed Food,
And trust our heavenly Guide;
So shall we find death's fearful flood
Serene as Jordan's tide,
And safely reach that happy shore,
The land of peace and rest,
Where angels worship and adore
In God's own presence blest.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE SAY:

God of life and health, accept the offering of your holy people and grant that we who are baptised into Christ may be perfected in your salvation, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

THE EUCHARIST PRAYER

PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

PRESIDENT: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRESIDENT: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRESIDENT:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father almighty, everlasting God:

EASTER

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for He is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By His death He has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again He has won for us eternal life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

ALL:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FORM E:

PRESIDENT:

Sovereign Lord and Father,
To you be glory and praise for ever.
In your boundless wisdom
you brought creation into being;
In your great love
you fashioned us in your image;
In your tender compassion
you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour,

to share our human nature;
In the power of the Holy Spirit,
He overcame the power of sin and death
and brought your people to new birth
as first fruits of your new creation.

On the night that He was betrayed
He took bread,
and when He had given thanks to you,
He broke it and gave it to his disciples
and said: "Take this, and eat it:
This is my Body which is given for you,
Do this for the remembrance of me."
And after supper
He took the cup of wine:
and 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,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

PRESIDENT:

Therefore, Father, according to the command
of your dearly beloved Son,

ALL:

We remember His death;
We proclaim His resurrection;
We await His coming in glory.

PRESIDENT:

And we offer you, Father,
our sacrifice of thanks and praise.

Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts of
bread and wine that they may become
the Body and Blood of your Son,
Jesus, our Lord and Redeemer.

As we partake of this holy food of new
and unending life, may your Holy Spirit
establish us as a royal priesthood
with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. N-
and all your sons and daughters who share
in your eternal inheritance;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With Him and in Him and through Him,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father Almighty,
with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
in songs of everlasting praise:

ALL:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 forever. *Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

PRESIDENT:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

ALL:

Though we are many we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.

THE INVITATION: FORM A

PRESIDENT:

My brothers and sisters in Christ, draw near and receive His Body which He gave for you, and His Blood, which He shed for you. Remember that He died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All: Grant gracious Lord that we may so eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and drink His blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: 164

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him, whose love divine
gives his sacred Blood for wine,
gives his Body for the feast,
Christ the Victim, Christ the priest.
2. Where the Paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal Victim, Paschal Bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.
3. Mighty Victim from on high,
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light:
now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall:
thou hast opened paradise,
and in thee thy saints shall rise.

4. Easter triumph, Easter joy,
sin alone can this destroy;
from sin's power do thou set free
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory and of praise,
Risen Lord, to thee we raise;
Holy Father, praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE SAY:

Giver of all, we are nourished with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with the spirit of love, and unite us in faith, that we may be witnesses to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

THE BLESSINGS:

EASTER

The God of peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always...

ALL: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: 186

1. Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.
2. For Judah's Lion bursts His chains,
Crushing the serpent's head;
And cries aloud through death's domains
To wake the imprisoned dead.
3. Devouring depths of hell their prey
At his command restore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where Jesus goes before.
4. Triumphant in His glory now
To Him all power is given;
To Him in one communion bow
All saints in earth and heaven.
5. While we, His soldiers, praise our King,
His mercy we implore,
Within His palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.
6. All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,
While endless ages run.
Alleluia! Amen!

St. James Parish Church



THE EASTER VIGIL

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

APRIL 4, 2026

7:30 P.M.

**P.O.Box 3009, HOLETOWN, ST. JAMES,
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