

A Service of the Word for Easter Day Sunday April 12, 2020
Adapted from *Common Worship (Time and Seasons)*, Church of England



OPENING MUSIC: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!
unto Christ our heavenly King, alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, alleluia!
our salvation have procured; alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

THE GATHERING

Bishop: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

THE MARKING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Bishop: As we gather in the risen presence of Christ we bless and mark this Paschal Candle, a symbol and reminder of the presence of our risen Christ, who scatters the darkness of sin and death.

The Paschal candle is marked.

Bishop: Christ yesterday and today
the beginning and end
Alpha and Omega
all time belongs to him and all ages;
to him be glory and power
through every age and forever.

All: Amen

The Paschal candle is pierced.

Bishop: By his holy
and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord
guard us and keep us.

The Paschal candle is lit.

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Bishop: This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life.
Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power and God.
As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident
that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May the light of Christ, rising in glory banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Bishop: Let us pray...

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son,
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

All: Amen.

Music is played as the altar candles are lit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Letter to the Colossians 3.1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.

THE GOSPEL OF THE RESURRECTION: Matthew 28.1-10

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Matthew.

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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The Gospel is proclaimed...

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.'

One: The Gospel of Christ
All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE HOMILY: Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

Music is played during a time of reflection.

INTERCESSIONS

One: Let us pray...

God of Resurrection, our hope and our joy, our comfort and our support,
we make our prayer to you saying,

Lord in your mercy,
All: **hear our prayer.**

One: God of all hope, in this time of challenge, of fear and anxiety, may we not loose heart;
but may your light of love and resurrection power shine brightly in our hearts and minds,
to strengthen and sustain, to encourage and enliven, to support and guide us.

Lord in your mercy,
All: **hear our prayer.**

One: Risen Christ, who draws all people to yourself, unite your church at this time,
who, though scattered, are united in faith, in hope and in the joy of Resurrection faith.
grant us boldness to live and proclaim your Gospel at all times and in all places.

Lord in your mercy,
All: **hear our prayer.**

The Anglican Diocese of Niagara
Called to Life – Compelled to Love

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One: God the giver of gifts, we thank you especially for those who have the gift of healing. For those who have trained and work hard and who give of themselves for the well being of others. We pray for scientists, for doctors and nurses, respiratory therapists, and all hospital staff working so diligently to protect us and treat us at this time. Grant them your protection, strengthen the hands that care.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: Christ who embraced the sick, we pray for those who are sick at this time, for those in our hospitals and especially those suffering with Covid-19. Grant them peace, the healing power of your Spirit, release from their fears and the comfort of your presence.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: Christ who has burst from the tomb, we remember those who have died, here in Canada and around the world, and those left to mourn, often without the closure and consolation of a funeral, or the intimate comfort of gathered friends and family. Be their hope and may the feast of your resurrection remind us all of your faithfulness in life and death.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: God in Trinity, perfect community, envelop in your loving arms the isolated and the lonely, those who feel forgotten; those for whom this time of physical distancing is acutely painful, bring them support and connection and bright light in the darkest of times.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: Victorious Christ, risen with healing for the nations of the world, grant to our leaders in every place, discernment, wisdom and strength, to protect and guard the most vulnerable.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

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Bishop: In the sure and certain hope of the risen Christ,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Closing remarks and announcements.

THE BLESSING

Archbishop: God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you the gates of everlasting life.

All: Amen!

Archbishop: God the Son, who in bursting from the tomb has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All: Amen!

Archbishop: God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All: Amen!

Archbishop: And the blessing of God almighty:
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen!

Bishop: With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Easter fanfare from the first organ symphony of Louis Vierne.