

A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion

Easter Sunday – April 4, 2021



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude: Chorale Prelude on St. Anne (H. Willan)

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Bishop: This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life.
Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of 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 forever.

The paschal candle is blessed:

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

The paschal candle is pierced:

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

The paschal candle is lit:

Bishop: May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
All: **banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.**
Bishop: The light of Christ.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gathering of the Community

Words of welcome and introduction.

Bishop: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
All: **And also with you.**
Bishop: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.
All: **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**
Bishop: 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.**

OPENING HYMN: Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia! (Common Praise #206)

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

Reader: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gospel: John 20:1-18

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Reader: But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleulia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Sermon – The Right Reverend Susan Bell

Words of reflection or teaching are offered.

An Anthem

The Prayers of the People

The response in the prayers is:

One: Holy One,

All: fill us with your Risen life.

Confession and Absolution

Bishop: Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners and invites us to this holy table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Bishop: Most merciful God,

**All: 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.**

Bishop: 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.
All: Amen.

The Peace

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All: And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Prayer over the Gifts

Bishop: Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest:
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.
All: Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

Bishop: Lift up your hearts in adoration.
All: We lift them to our God.

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Living God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Bishop: Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

But chiefly we are bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead, for
he is the true paschal lamb who was offered 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 restored to us
everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, saying:

**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.**

One: Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them,
saying: "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty
resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this
memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we
bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in
your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this
one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify
you forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**All: 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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Bishop: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All: Now we are raised to new life.

Bishop: We were buried with you in your tomb

All: Now we share in your resurrection.

Bishop: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Bishop: The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Bishop: Dear friends, I invite you in this moment,
wherever you may be, to receive Christ,
in communion with the saints,
and the gathering of God's people,
unseen and yet present with us now.

Many are made one.

Bishop: We receive you Lord Jesus Christ,

**All: we welcome your presence in us,
and together proclaim our love for you;
with our hearts, minds, our souls and our strength,
with the saints we worship you,
with the angels we adore you,
with your whole Church we proclaim your reign.
Come to us, though many, and make us one in you. Amen.**

Bishop: I invite you in the silence of your own hearts
or using one or more of the prayers in the order of service
to make your own act of Communion with Christ.

Silence is kept during which time the congregation prays one or more of the following prayers of reception.

Prayers of Reception

**One: I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ,
present in bread and wine, and present in your people,
who are gathered in spirit.
In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community.
May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart,
may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul,
may you, who gives yourself to us again,
fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing.
Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you
and for your reign of justice and peace increase,
that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day
when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.**

Or

**One: Come Lord Jesus and make in my heart your dwelling place and home.
I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength,
and so, through your presence in bread and wine
I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God.
As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people,
rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving,
I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.**

Or

One: Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine.
I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life.
Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar,
come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself to you; never let me be separated from you.¹

Or

One: Holy Jesus we receive you in this moment,
giving you thanks and praise that you make yourself present
to all your people in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.
Transform our hearts that we may shine as your light in dark places;
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
And this all, in love for you. Amen.

Or

One: O Loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world
and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist,
hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son,
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even while separated from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life,
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised
and with your Son who gave his life for us.
Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit
that I may be filled with your presence.

Jesus, as the hem of your garment, touched in faith,
healed the woman who could not touch your body,
so may the soul of your servant be healed,
for though I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can,
through this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart;
grant this for Christ's sake. Amen.²

Prayers recommended for use by children:

One: Holy Jesus, thank you for loving us,
and thank you for the holy bread and wine
that reminds us that you are always with us.
Come and live in our hearts, so we may know your love,
and love others too. Amen.

¹ Based on a prayer by St. Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori

² Adapted from a service of Spiritual Communion, Diocese of Chelmsford, Church of England

Or

One: Jesus, you remind us in bread and wine that you are near to us.
Bring me nearer to you every day, and let me carry you in my heart,
to share your love with the world you made. Amen.

Or

One: Lord Jesus, thank you that you are always with me,
I pray that you would remind me to welcome you to share every day with me.
Thank you for loving me. I want to say that I love you too. Amen.

Or

One: Jesus, I want to follow you: to see you more clearly;
love you more dearly; and follow you more nearly.
So come into my heart, so that we may share life together. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (Common Praise #207)

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| 1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who has 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. | 3. Mighty victim from the sky,
Powers of hell beneath thee lie;
Death is broken in the fight,
Thou hast brought us life and light:
Now no more can death appal,
now no more the grave enthrall!
Thou has opened paradise,
And in thee thy saints shall rise. |
| 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. | 4. This, our gift of Easter joy,
sin alone can now destroy;
From sin's power do thou set free
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory and of praise,
Father, unto thee we raise;
Risen Lord, all praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be. |

Prayer After Communion

Bishop: Let us pray.

Father of all,

All: we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared you love,
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.
May we who receive Christ's presence, live his risen life and bring life to others,
and may we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.³

³ Adapted from Common Worship, Church of England, Holy Communion Order One.

The Blessing

CLOSING HYMN: Yours Be the Glory (Common Praise #210)

1. Yours be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory
over death you won;
Angels robed in splendour
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes
Where thy body lay.
*Yours be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory
over death you won;*
2. See! Jesus meets us,
Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord is living,
Death has lost its sting.
*Yours be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory
over death you won;*
3. No more we doubt you,
Glorious Prince of life;
what is life without you?
Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors
Through your deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To your home above:
*Yours be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory
over death you won;*

Dismissal

One: Having received Christ by faith, let us go to live in that faith,
transformed by hope and proclaiming God's love.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude: Chorale Prelude on "CWM Rhondda" (anon.)