



**The Easter Vigil – April 3, 2021  
The Parish of the Ascension  
7:00 p.m.  
Book of Alternative Services  
& Common Praise**

**Officiant:** Archdeacon David Burrows  
**Homilist:** Rev'd Lynn Courage  
**Readers:** Dean William Bellamy  
Sheila Foote  
Kim Pike  
Lester Pike  
**Soloists:** Krista Burrows  
Sheila Foote

**THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**

**BAS p. 321**

*In the darkness, fire is kindled. The celebrant greets the people. The paschal candle is lighted from the new fire.*

**Priest:** The light of Christ.  
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*At a suitable place the candle is lifted high.*

**Priest:** The light of Christ.  
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*The paschal candle arrives before the altar.*

**Priest:** The light of Christ.  
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Other candles in the church may now be lit. The paschal candle is placed in its stand next to the altar. The Exsultet is proclaimed. The lights in the church are turned on.*

**EXSULTET**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Celebrant:** 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.

**First Reading:** Genesis 1.1—2.4a

**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.

**Second Reading:** Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21

**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 peoples 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

**Third Reading:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Prayer**

Living God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness, and out of death into life. Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Collect of the Day**

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

**Epistle Reading:** Romans 6:3-11

**Psalm 114**

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,  
**the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,**

Judah became God's sanctuary  
**and Israel his dominion.**

The sea beheld it and fled;  
**Jordan turned and went back.**

The mountains skipped like rams,  
**and the little hills like young sheep.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?  
**O Jordan, that you turned back?**

You mountains, that you skipped like rams?  
**you little hills like young sheep?**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
**at the presence of the God of Jacob.**

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water  
**and flint-stone into a flowing spring**

**HYMN: 412 vs. 1 & 4 *O God, Beyond All Face and Form***

### **THE EASTER GOSPEL**

*(The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 16:1-8)*

### **HOMILY**

### **THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, 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 for ever. **Amen.**

Dear friends,  
through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a 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.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?  
**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?  
**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

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

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in  
the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the  
Lord?  
**I will, with God's help**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human  
being?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

**I will, with God's help.**

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 for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

**HYMN FOR THE OFFERING: 205 vs. 1 & 3 *The Day of Resurrection***

## **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

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

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN: 220 vs. 1 & 3 *Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Risen***

## **BLESSING**

## **DISMISSAL**

### Resources For Worship From The Following Sources

Anglian Church of Canada  
One License #733242-A  
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Book of Common Praise  
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