

The First Sunday of Easter, 2020

To prepare for this service, it is suggested you light a candle, and pour a basin or bowl of water with which to share in the Thanksgiving for Baptism.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Greeting

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Presider: May his grace and peace be with you.

People: **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Standing at the font, the Presider continues,

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are set free from the dominion of evil and death.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font. Then the Presider gives thanks, saying,

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.**

If you have prepared a bowl or basin of water, as the introduction to the Gathering Hymn begins, you are invited to dip your hand in the water and trace the sign of the cross on your forehead or over your body as a remembrance of your baptism. Members of households may choose to trace the cross on the forehead of each other, saying, "Remember your baptism."

Gathering Hymn

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 pain which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Collect of the Day

Presider: God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death:
fill your church with faith and hope,
for a new day has dawned
and the way of life stands before us;
through Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalm *Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24, 29*

The People voice the verses in bold print.

Give thanks to the Lord who is good;
the mercy of the Lord endures for ever.

**Let Israel now proclaim,
“The mercy of the Lord endures for ever.”**

The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and has become my salvation.

**There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:
“The mighty hand of the Lord has triumphed!
the mighty hand of the Lord is exalted!
the mighty hand of the Lord has triumphed!”**

I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.
**The Lord has punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.**

Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.
**“This is the gate of the Lord;
those who are righteous may enter.”**

I will give thanks to the Lord who answered me
and has become my salvation.
**The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
**On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Give thanks to the Lord who is good;
the mercy of the Lord endures for ever.

Gospel Proclamation

John 20.1-18

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel...according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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. ² 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.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and 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.

¹³They 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." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus 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.'"

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Presider: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

All: **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

Prayers of the People

The Intercessor calls the people to prayer, saying,

Our God loves the world with an everlasting love,
faithful and near in all times and places.
As we make our declaration,
“God’s steadfast love endures forever,”
let us lift our hearts in prayer, saying, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

The Intercessor continues,

God, our strength and our might,
you have raised us with Christ.
We pray for your church, particularly in Algoma,
and for our Archbishop, Anne.

{short period for silent prayer}

Call us by name.

Place the testimony of Mary Magdalene in our mouths.

May we declare with joy and boldness,

“The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

To you we lift our hearts, O God: **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

God in whose salvation we rejoice,
we pray for all who must await their baptism
during this time when we cannot gather around font and table,
and all the baptized who watch and wait with them.

{ silent prayer }

Enliven with your Spirit those whom you have anointed.
Establish as your witnesses
those who yearn to eat and drink the Eucharistic feast once more.
Reveal in your people the glory of Christ, our life.
To you we lift our hearts, O God: **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

God, whose Messiah is Sovereign of all,
we pray for the nations and peoples of the earth, *especially N.*

{ silent prayer }

Breathe resurrection life
into those suffocated by death’s power.
Stir the conscience and heart of all who govern.
Say to the troubled of our world, “Be not afraid!”
To you we lift our hearts, O God: **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

God who wipes away the tears from all faces,
we pray for those longing for deliverance
from fear or anxiety,
weeping or despair,
sickness or any other affliction, *especially N.*

{ silent prayer }

Become the salvation of those who call out to you.
Reveal grace in wilderness places.
May glad songs sound in the tents of the righteous.
To you we lift our hearts, O God: **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

Judge of the living and the dead,
we remember those whom we love but see no longer.

{ silent prayer }

Defeat that final enemy, Death.
May the beloved rejoice,
“I shall not die, but live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.”
To you we lift our hearts, O God: **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

The Presider concludes the Prayers of the People:

Presider: God unlimited by mortal fear or the tomb's cold grip:
in the lingering dark
give us grace to know your life triumphant,
your love undimmed, and your grace affirmed
in the face of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead.

People: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

The Archbishop may make some closing remarks, and pronounce the blessing.

Closing Hymn

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 your body lay.

Refrain:

Your be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, over death you won.

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!

Refrain:

Yours be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Refrain:

Yours be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.

Dismissal

Assistant: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

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

For Conversation or Reflection in Your Home after this Liturgy:

1. What images, words, or phrases do you associate with Easter Sunday?
2. What are some important Easter traditions in your own family?
3. Where do you encounter the Risen Christ?

Continuing the conversation/reflection: As you celebrate the Easter season, take time to notice the daily experience of resurrection and new life. Share these moments with your family and friends at the end of each day or week. You might be surprised how much new life permeates our world!

Acknowledgements:

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