*The Great Vigil of Easter*
*Saturday, April 4, 2026 at 8:00 PM*



ARTISIT: JEN NORTON
ART: EASTER MORNING

# CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

*a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey*

*The Great Vigil of Easter*
*Saturday, April 4, 2026*
*8:00 PM*

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*5 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901*
*732-545-6262*

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH, an Episcopal parish of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship this evening, and to receive Holy Communion or a blessing at the communion rail. We invite you to ask questions, explore, and to make yourself known to those around you. Please pick up a welcome bag, and any other information about the parish located on the bookshelf in the back of the church. Tell us more about yourself by filling out one of the cards located in each pew. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES. Changing stations are available in both rest rooms at the Paterson Street entrance; you can get there through the side door of the church.

WE REJOICE that you have chosen to worship here this Easter. If you would like to learn more about our Parish, please phone the Parish Office at 732.545.6262. Many of our upcoming events are listed on our web site, christchurchnewbrunswick.org; we hope that you decide to join us.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to worship with us any Sunday.

Our regular service time is 9:30 AM.

FREE PARKING VOUCHERS
Are available for the Lower Church Street parking deck next to the church grounds.
Please see an usher for a voucher and instructions.

Permission is given to print and stream music via One License # #A-700522

# The Great Vigil of Easter

## The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

*The congregation gathers outside the tower door. If it is raining, the congregation will gather in the back of the church. In the darkness, the new fire is kindled.*

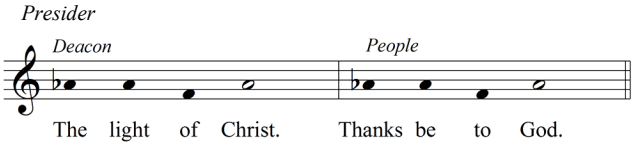
*The Presider addresses the people with these words*

*Presider* Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray. O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People*** **Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is then lit from the newly-kindled fire, and the congregation proceeds to the pews in the sanctuary and remains standing. An appointed person, bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing*




*The Congregation's candles are lit from the Paschal Candle during the procession. Then the Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.*

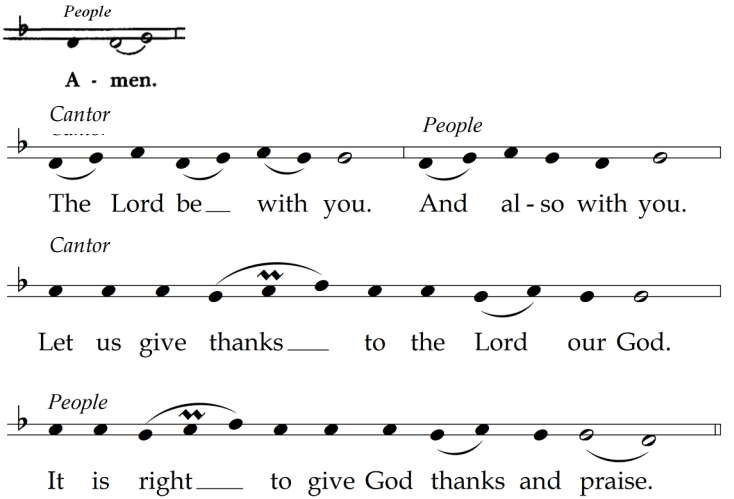
*A Cantor, standing near the Candle, sings the* Exsultet.

*Cantor* Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,




*Cantor* It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

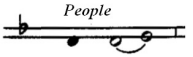
This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.




*The Paschal Candle and every candle lit from it are signs of the Light of Christ in our midst. Please be seated, and feel free to keep your candle burning until the Easter acclamation.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHECIES

*Presider* Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved God's people in ages past, and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

*Please be seated*

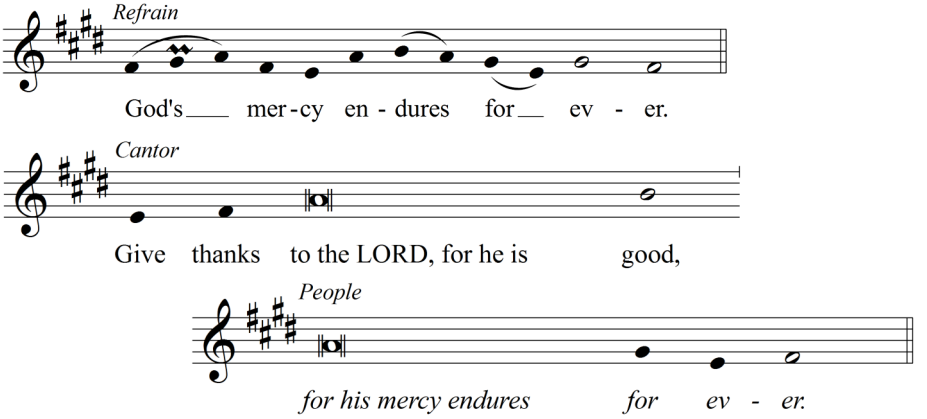
### THE STORY OF CREATION *Genesis 1:1 – 2:2*

*Reader* 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.

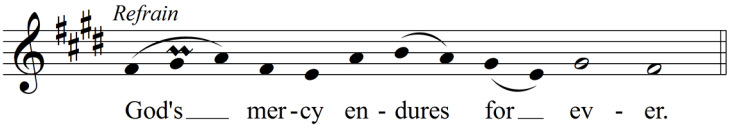
## PSALM 136:1-9, 23-26 *Confitemini* *Tone II*

*The cantor will intone the refrain; all repeat.*
*The cantor will chant the first half of each verse; all sing the second half.*
*The Refrain is repeated by all at the end.*




*Cantor* Give thanks to the God of gods, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* Give thanks to the Lord of lords, *

***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* Who only does great wonders, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* Who by wisdom made the heavens, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* Who spread out the earth upon the waters, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* Who created great lights, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* The sun to rule the day, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* The moon and the stars to govern the night, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* Who remembered us in our low estate, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* And delivered us from our enemies, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* Who gives food to all creatures, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***
*Cantor* Give thanks to the God of heaven, *
***People*** ***for his mercy endures for ever.***




*All who are able please stand*

COLLECT

*Presider* Let us pray. O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People*** **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

THE FLOOD *Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13*

*Reader* The Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take

with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind-- every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

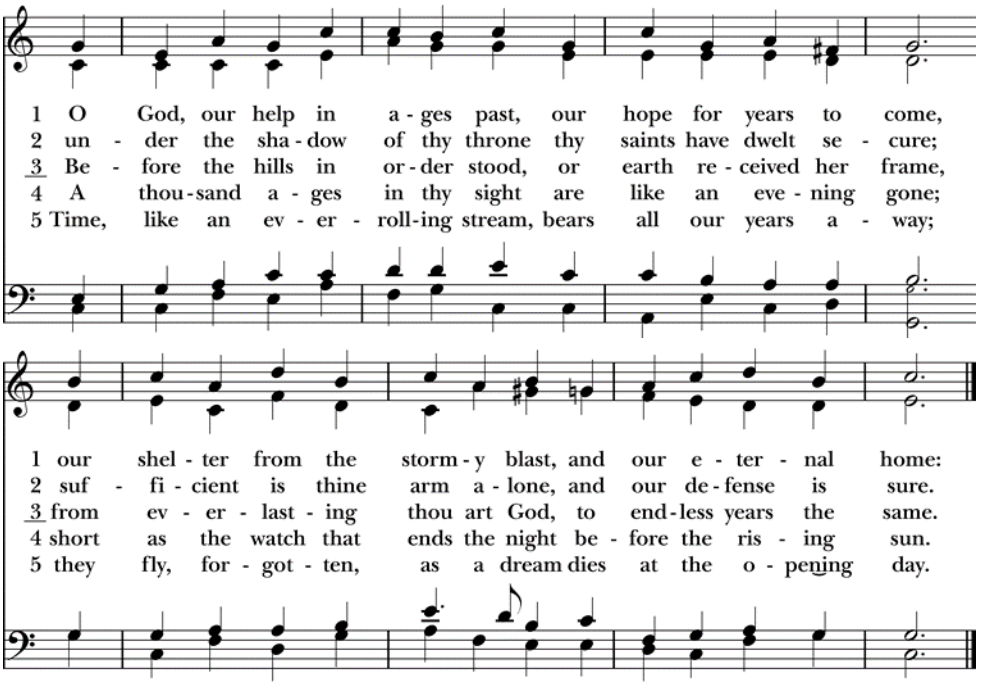
In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your

sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh-- birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth-- so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

## O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

The Blue Hymnal 1982, #680




6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90. Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

## ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA *Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21*

*Reader* 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
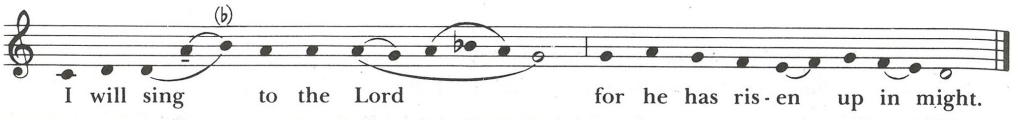
through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed 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 8

*Tone I and Tonus Peregrinus*

*The Cantor intones the Antiphon, All repeat. The Antiphon is repeated at the end.*

*Antiphon*
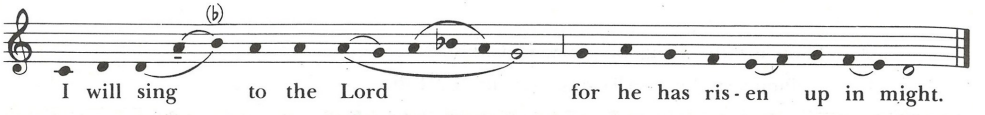



*Choir*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.
This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?
You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up.
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.
You will bring them in and plant them *

on the mount of your possession,
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.
The Lord shall reign *
for ever and for ever.

*People*




*All who are able please stand*

COLLECT

*Presider* Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People*** **Amen.**

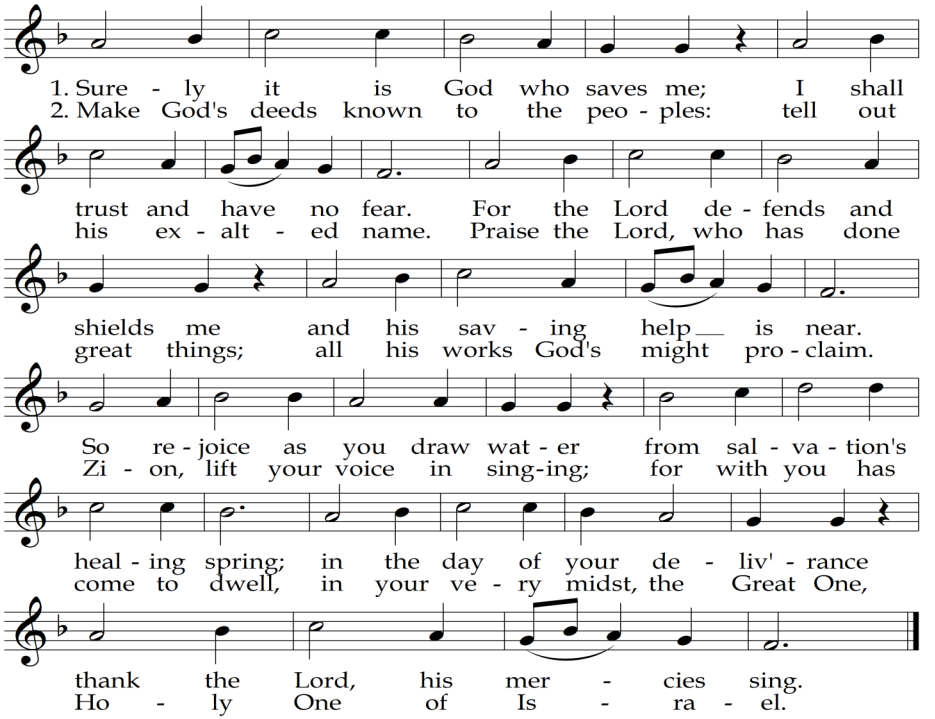
*Please be seated*

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

*Reader* The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O LORD God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the LORD God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the LORD God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried

up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the LORD God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

HYMN "Surely it is God" WERDE MUNTER




*All who are able please stand*

COLLECT

*Presider* Almighty 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 the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People*** **Amen.**

## The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

*Presider* Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

*Presider* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

***People*** **I do.**

*Presider* Do you believe in God the Father?

***People*** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Presider* 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 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.**

*Presider* 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.**

*Presider* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

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

*Presider* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

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

*Presider* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

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

*Presider* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

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

*Presider* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the

dignity of every human being?

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

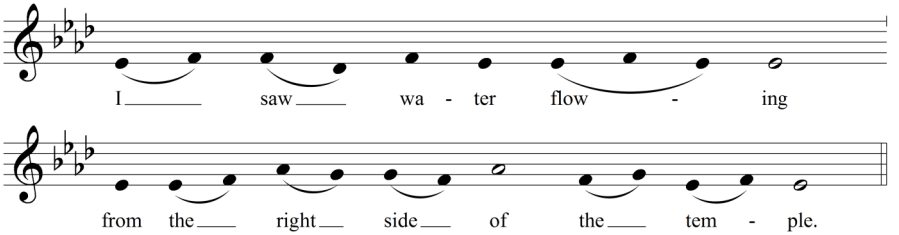
*Presider* May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***People*** **Amen.**

## ASPERGES RITE

*As a reminder of our Baptism, the Presider sprinkles the congregation with water. Meanwhile, the choir sings verses from Psalm 42, a text which is traditionally appointed for this moment of the Vigil. After the cantor intones the antiphon, the congregation joins the choir in repeating it before and after the motet.*

*Antiphon*




## MOTET

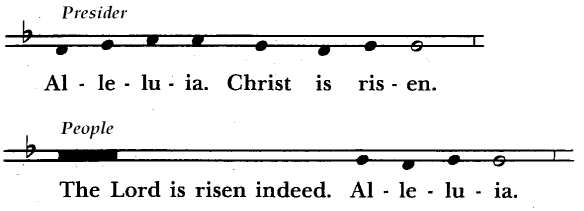
*Sicut Cervus* *G. P. da Palestrina*

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,
Ita desiderat anima me ad te, Deus.

*Just as the hart desires the springs of water*
*So my soul longs for you, O God.*

# THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER
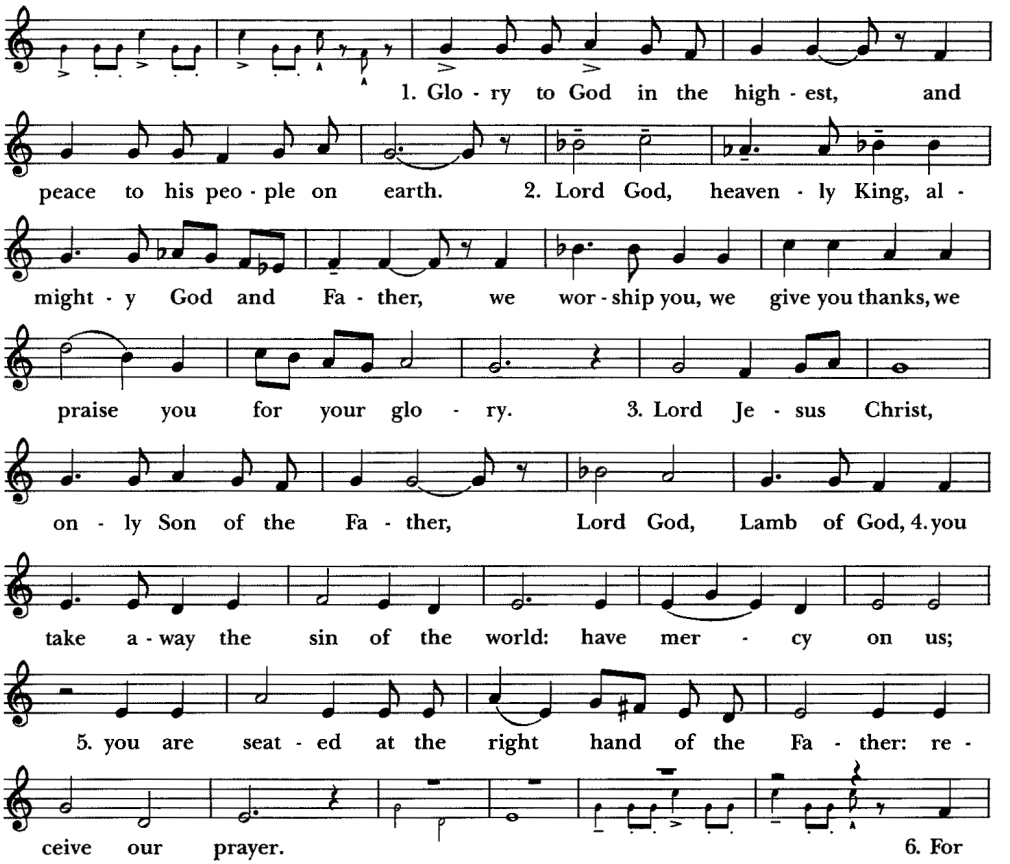
*With great joy, all sing the Easter Acclamation as the altar candles are lighted from the Paschal Candle.*

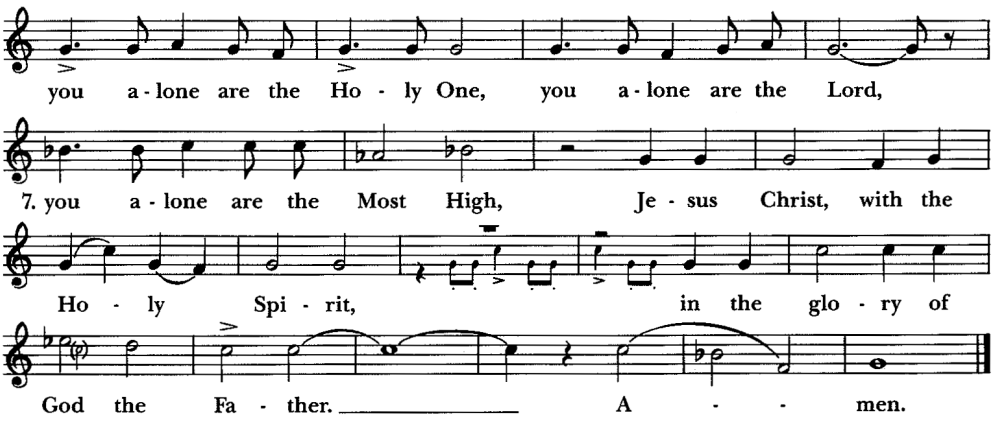



*All are invited to ring bells with great joy during the* Gloria in excelsis, *sung for the first time since before Ash Wednesday.*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*The Blue Hymnal 1982, S,* **#278**
*William Mathias*






*Presider* The Lord be with you.

***People*** **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray. O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***People*** **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

FIRST READING *Romans 6:3-11*

*Reader* *A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans*: 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.

*Silence is kept for a space*

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

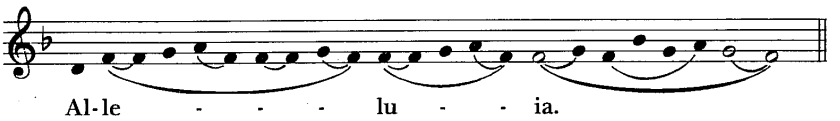
***People*** **Thanks be to God.**

*All who are able please stand*

## THE GREAT ALLELUIA

*The Blue Hymnal 1982, S,* **#70**
*Henry Smart*

*The cantor sings the Great Alleluia three times, and it is repeated each time by the people. Each repetition is at a higher pitch.*




## GOSPEL LESSON

*John 20:1-18*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

***People*** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Deacon* 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 toward 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. 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 around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus 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." 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.

*Silence is kept for a space*

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.
***People*** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON *Rev. Daphne P. Roberts*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader* Responding, "In the joy of the Resurrection," let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others.

*The Leader requests the prayers of the People of God for the world, the mission of the Church, and for those individuals who have asked for or need our prayers. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please fill out the form in the Prayers of the People book in the back of the Church.*

*After the last petition, the Presider adds a concluding Collect*

THE PEACE

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.
***People*** **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM This Joyful Eastertide *William H. Harris*
Sung by the Christ Church Choir

1. This Joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Refrain*

*Had Christ, that once was slain,*
*Ne'er burst his three–day prison,*
*Our faith had been in vain:*
*But now hath Christ arisen,*
*Arisen, arisen, arisen.*

2. My flesh in hope shall rest,
And for a season, slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number.

*Refrain*

3. Death's flood hath lost his chill,
Since Jesus cross'd the river,
Crossed the river.
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.

*Refrain*

Scan this code to support Christ Church's ministries and outreach to the community.



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider* The Lord be with you.
***People*** **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.
***People*** **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

*Presider* God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
***People*** **Glory to you for ever and ever**.

*Presider* At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
***People*** **By your will they were created and have their being.**

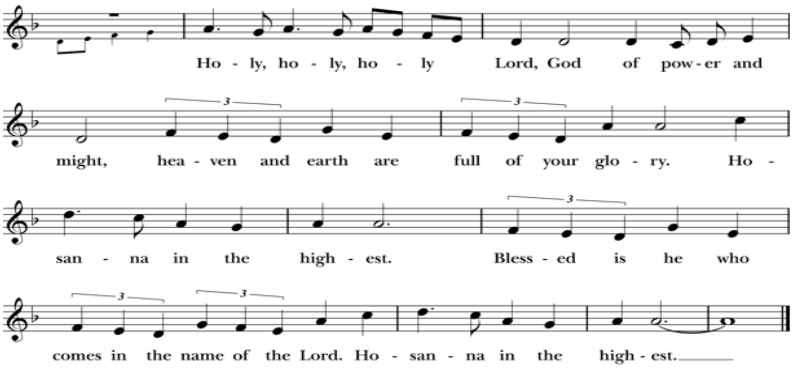
*Presider* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
***People*** **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

*Presider* Again and again you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
***People*** **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

*Presider* And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS *The Blue Hymnal 1982, S*, **#129**
*William Matthias*

***People***




*The Celebrant continues*

*Presider* And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

*Presider* On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***People*** **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

*Presider* Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

***People*** **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

*Presider* Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.
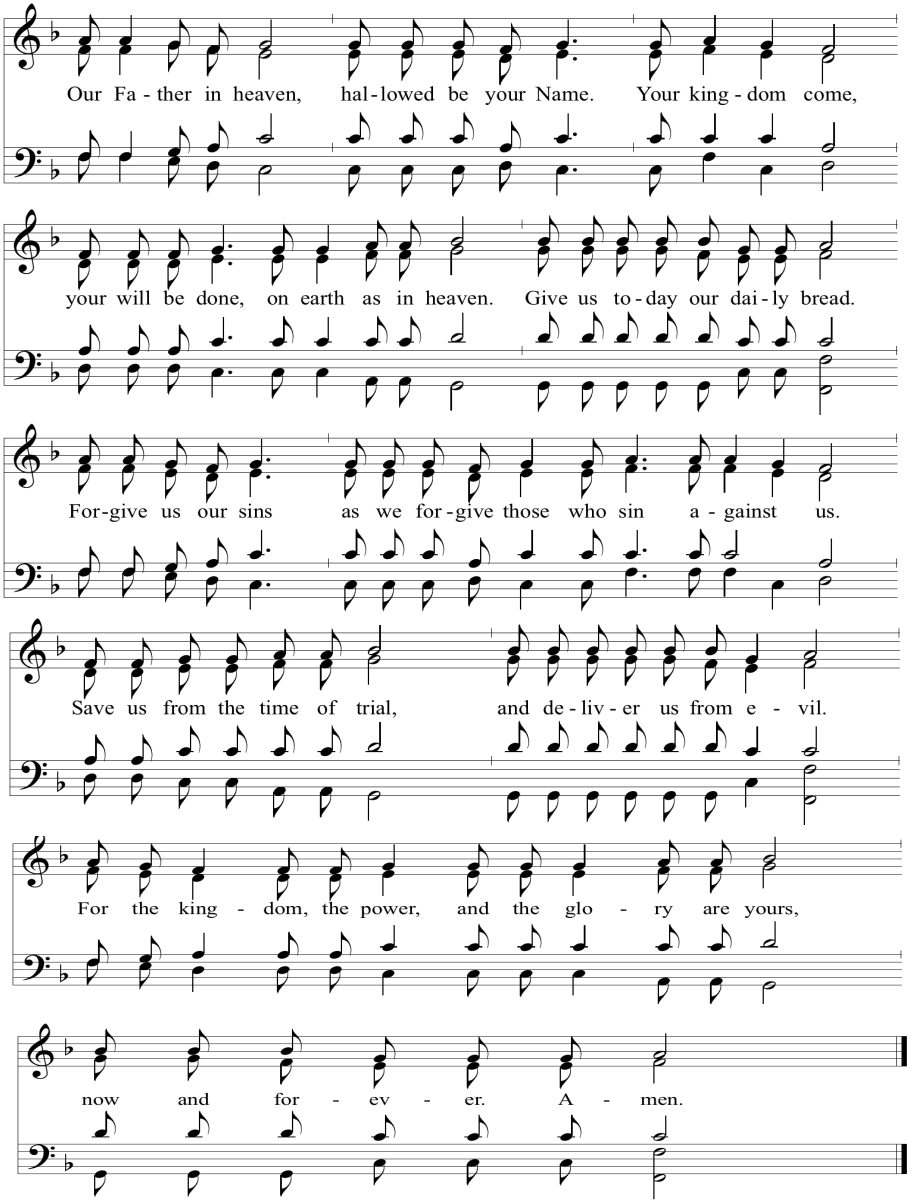
***People*** **Amen.**

*Presider* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

## THE LORDS'S PRAYER

*Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov*
*From the Liturgy of St. Chrysostom, Op. 22*

***People***
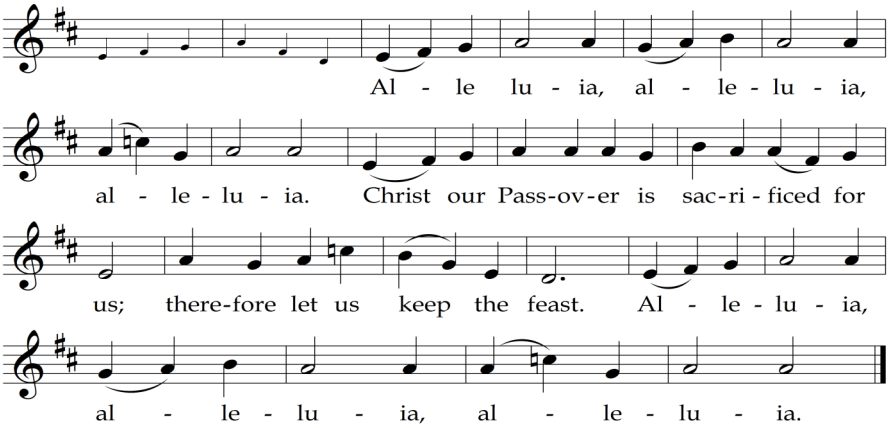


## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Presider breaks the bread. Then All sing*

## FRACTION ANTHEM

*The Blue Hymnal 1982, S*, **#155**

*Gerald Near*




## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Presider* The gifts of God for the People of God.

*The congregation may kneel or sit following the Invitation. All are most welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion, you are cordially invited to come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing. If you do choose to receive communion, please sanitize your hands first.*

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER FOR THOSE JOINING US ONLINE:
*Gracious God, our sustainer and source of all good things in the universe. As we gather in community this day, we are mindful of those who through circumstance or conscience are unable to partake of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation at this time. You are the source of the food and water which nourishes and sustains us. As we are the product of all we have partaken, we know that we are infused with your life-giving food and drink and that are never separated from you. Though we are many, we are joined in Christ. We are one Body, one Cup in the name of the One God. Amen.*

*The Bread and Cup are given to the Communicants with these words*

*Minister* The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
***Recipient*** **Amen.**
*Minister* The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
***Recipient*** **Amen.**
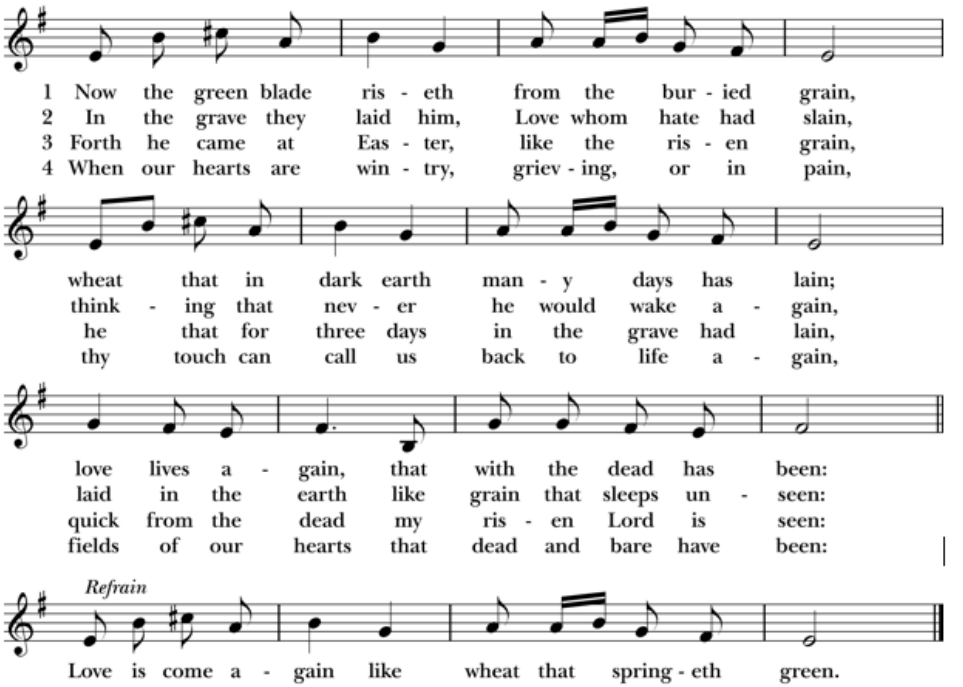
COMMUNION ANTHEM God so Loved the World — John Stainer
Sung by The Christ Church Choir — arr. John Sheridan

1. God so loved the world,
God so loved the world
that he gave his only begotton Son,
that whoso believeth, believeth in him
should not perish,
should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

2. For God sent not his Son into the world
to condemn the world,
God sent not his Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world through him might be
saved.

3. God so loved the world,
God so loved the world
that he gave his only begotton Son,
that whoso believeth, believeth in him
should not perish,
should not perish,
but have everlasting life
everlasting life, everlasting, everlasting
life.
God so loved the world,
God so loved the world,
God so loved the world.

COMMUNION HYMN Now the green blade riseth — The Blue Hymnal 1982, #204
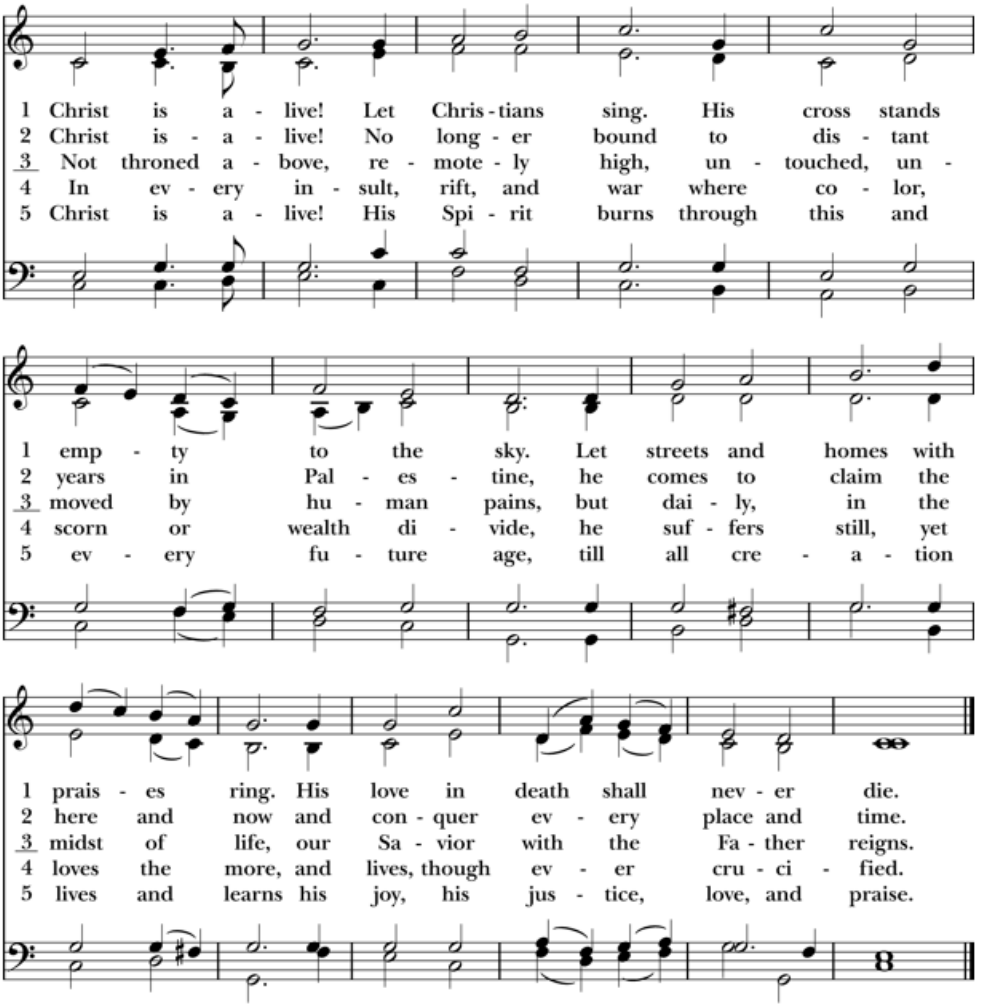


AFTER COMMUNION

*All who are able please stand*

*Presider* Let us pray.

***People*** **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever Amen.**

FINAL HYMN "Christ is alive" The Blue *Hymnal 1982,* #182



BLESSING & DISMISSAL

*Presider* The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting 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.

**People: Amen.**

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

***People*** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE Tocatta in C Major, BWV 564 J.S. Bach



*Please leave all flowers and bulbs in the church until after the 9:30 a.m. service on Easter Day.*

## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

| | |
|---|---|
| *Presider* | The Rev. Scott Russell |
| *Preacher* | The Rev. Daphne P. Roberts |
| *Deacon* | The Rev. Daphne P. Roberts |
| *LEM* | Tisha Abbott |
| *Readers* | Nancy Walworth, Artie Phills |
| *Intercessor* | Debra Lowe |
| *Crucifer* | |
| *Thurifer* | Jonathan Gloster |
| *Usher(s)* | |
| *Production Minister* | Karen Bemis |
| *Altar Guild* | Nancy Walworth, Sheila Cooper, Shannon Pullaro |
| *Cantor* | Shannon Pullaro, Paul Ambos |

## THE CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR

David Citron, organ

Sopranos: Zida Abbott, Catherine Ambos, Karen Colabaugh, Joanna Greenwood, Mary Nelson

Altos: Beth Binde, Patricia Buckendahl, Louise Deis, Anna Rose Gable

Tenors: Paul Ambos, Julius Jarrett

Basses: Chris Davies, Jim Nichols, Gordon Arsenoff, Stephen Greenwood

**INTERCESSIONS**

AT EVERY CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST prayer is offered with intercession for the Universal Church, the nation, the welfare of the world, the concerns of this community, those who suffer and those in any trouble, and the departed. Please feel free to add your own petitions during the prayers, either silently or aloud. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, you may also fill out the form in the Prayers of the People book in the back of the Church.

**WEEKLY INTERCESSIONS**

We remember in today's prayers:

***The Sick and Others in Need—*** *Carlitos, Emily, Jeannine, Lizette, Michael, Milton, Pat, Patricia, Sarah, Suzanne, Timothy, Vincent*

***Anglican Cycle*** *– we pray for The Diocese of Southern Virginia– The Episcopal Church*

***Diocesan Cycle*** *– Board of Consultation*

***Christ Church Ministry*** *– Finance Committee*

***Birthdays this week*** *– Lawerence Abbott, Eleanor Bartmeser, Isabella Beckley, David Briggs, Chioma Egekeze, Jordan Kilkenny, Anne Norris, Daniel Yarus, Peter Yarus*

***Memorial Flowers—*** *are given by the Children of Barbara Livezey Clarke in memory of Barbara Livezey Clarke*

**PASTORAL CARE**

If you are in crisis, having surgery, are in the hospital and are in need of pastoral counseling from a clergy person, please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Scott Russell– 732.545.6262 ext. 1 or Rev. Daphne P. Roberts—732.545.6262 ext. 3

If you would like to schedule home communion, please contact Rev. Roberts and she will arrange for either herself, or a Lay Eucharistic Visitor to bring communion to you. Please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Russell or Rev. Roberts if you know of someone who is in need of care or counseling.

# Scheule of Parish Events
## April 4 – April 11, 2026

***The Parish Office will be closed***
***Monday, April 6 through Thursday, April 10***

**Sunday, April 5**

**The Sunday of the Resurrection**

9:30 a.m. Festal Holy Eucharist *

*An Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages will be held after the 10:30 a.m. service*

** Incense will be used at this service*

**Tuesday, April 7**

7:00 p.m. Tuesdayers Book Group via Zoom

**Wednesday, April 8**

Noonday Prayer via Zoom

7:30 p.m. WomenSpirit Zoom

**Thursday, April 9**

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

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**12-Step Program Schedule**

**Meeting Weekdays in the Nicholas Room:**

7:30 AM—AA First Light

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RaiseRight
Formerly ShopWithScrip

Paul Ambos will be placing a new card order on the morning of Monday, **April 6**. Please place your orders accordingly.

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**Join members of Christ Church Sunday, April 19 after the 9:30am service for a "Packing Party"!**

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Christ Church is holding a Book Sale on **April 25 (Rutgers Day) from 9:00 am -3:00 pm.**

To help us, please bring books in **GOOD** condition (no mold, no water damage, no missing pages or broken bindings), to Christ Church starting this Sunday, March 15. We will be collecting books through April 18.

## The Vestry

*Meegan Adames, Rector's Warden*
*meegzy79@yahoo.com*

*Jonathan Gloster, People's Warden*
*jgloster73@gmail.com*

*John Ager, Treasurer*
*jager@optonline.net*

*Mark McMahon, Finance*
*markroy53@.me*

*Karen Colabaugh, Music, Clerk*
*karen.colabaugh@gmail.com*

*Jonathan Clark, Discipleship*
*im4canoes@yahoo.com*

*Eleanor Forbes, Outreach*
*elliebelle15@gmail.com*

*Debra Lowe, Personnel*
*lowedp@yahoo.com*

*Melbourne Garber, Property*
*magarber59@gmail.com*

## Parish Staff

The Rev. Daniel Scott Russell, *Interim Rector*
*rector@christchurchnewbrunswick.org*

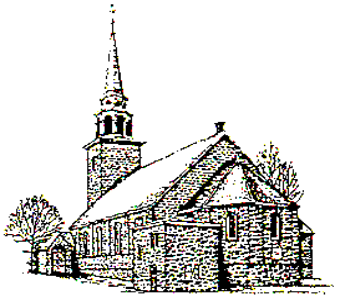
The Rev. Daphne Roberts, *Deacon*
*deacon@christchurchnewbrunswick.org*

Suzanne Davis McDonald, *Director of Music and Organist*
*music@christchurchnewbrunswick.org*

Brittney Girault, *Business Operations Manager*
*admin@christchurchnewbrunswick.org*

Elaine Winkler, *Bookkeeper*
*bookkeeper@christchurchnewbrunswick.org*

Carlos Garcia, *Sexton*



**APRIL 2-4, 2026**
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**
**GOOD FRIDAY**
**HOLY SATURDAY**

taking faith home

*In suffering and death, Jesus shows God's power.*

## HOLY WEEK BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Holy Week observances.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Thursday** | **John 13:1-17, 31b-35** | **Jesus gives a new commandment** |
| **Friday** | **John 18:1—19:42** | **The suffering and death of Jesus** |
| **Saturday** | **Matthew 27:57-66** | **The burial of Jesus** |

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

*Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them [the soldiers], "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground.* **John 18:4-6 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for Holy Week:**
Almighty God, through Jesus' betrayal and death on the cross, you show us the power of your love. Through your suffering we are healed. Open our hearts to receive your love and saving grace. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**
Merciful God, through Jesus' suffering and death you heal us. Through this food you restore us daily. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**
May Christ shine his face on you with love.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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## APRIL 4, 2026

taking faith home

## HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL

*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

## EASTER VIGIL MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is one of your favorite Bible stories? Why is it important to you?
- The Bible tells the story of God's saving deeds and our human frailty. What is something about the story of God's love and mercy for us that surprises you?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* All of the Easter Vigil Bible Readings.

The readings for the Easter Vigil give a summary of God's saving work in history, from the gift of creation and God's plan to reject human sacrifices, to the new birth of Israel foretold by Ezekiel and the resurrection of Jesus. The Easter Vigil is that one time of year to read several Bible texts, sit quietly in reflection, and meditate on God's work in history. It is also a time to baptize people into the Christian faith. As it states in Romans 6:4, *"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."* Through baptism Christ's death and resurrection shapes our life as well. We experience a daily dying to the old self and the rising of the new self to live with God now and always. Christ's resurrection impacts not only our future resurrection, but a daily resurrection that frees us from our old sinful selves so that we may love God and neighbor.

*Discuss:* How is it helpful to your faith journey to read through all the scripture readings as part of your Easter Vigil?

*Pray:* **Dear God, may the power of Christ's resurrection give us new life that we may celebrate with you and all the saints that Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Easter Vigil Bible Readings and theme for this day how can you support missionaries and other ministries to promote hope and freedom in Christ ?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The word *Alleluia* is traditionally not used during Lent. It is "buried" in Lent to be resurrected with Easter. Remove the black cloth that was placed on the Lenten Candle Cross on Good Friday. Light the white candle in the center of the cross and share the good news by saying: **Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
*a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey*
WORSHIPPING GOD, SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

✠

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT
*Christ Episcopal Church is a diverse and inclusive Christian community. We bear witness to the love and justice of Christ through worship, music, and service.*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.

5 Paterson Street ▪ New Brunswick NJ 08901
732.545.6262 ▪ christchurchnewbrunswick.org



The Reverend Daniel Scott Russell, *Interim Rector*
The Reverend Daphne P. Roberts, *Deacon*
Suzanne McDonald, *Director of Music and Organist*
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