

The Great Vigil of Easter

April 4, 2026 at St Aidan's

The Service of Light

Anne Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries; we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Let us pray: Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The paschal candle is lighted from the new fire.

Kevin The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The procession moves inside.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Tapers are lit from the paschal candle.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The procession enters the church, and lights are turned on.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes
for ever! Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God,
the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!
This is our passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates
the homes of all believers.

This is the night when first you saved our forebears: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.

This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love!
To ransom a slave, you gave away your Son.

The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth,
and we are reconciled with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.

Accept this Easter candle. May it always dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning:

Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Anne 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.

Phil First Reading: The Story of Creation (Genesis 1.1-2.4a)

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. **Amen.**

Come and Fill Our Hearts (CP 402)

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia! (x 3)**

Carol Second Reading: The Flood (Genesis 7.1–5, 11–18; 8.6–18; 9.8–13)

Faithful God, you have placed the rainbow in the skies as the sign of your covenant with all living things. May we who are saved through water and the Spirit, worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wait for the Lord, Whose Day is Near (CP 94)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart! (x 3)

Peter Third Reading: The Parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14.10–31; 15.20–21)

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. **Amen.**

Sing Praises, All You Peoples (CP 314)

**Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord.
Sing praises all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord! (x 3)**

Connie Fourth Reading: New Life for Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37.1–14)

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. **Amen.**

Christ is Risen! Let's sing and celebrate with noisemakers!

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! (John Bell)

**Halle, halle, halle--lujah! Halle, halle, halle--lujah!
Halle, halle, halle--luhaj! Hallelujah! Halellujah! (x 3)**

Anne 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. **Amen.**

Jane Fifth Reading: Walk in Newness of Life (Romans 6:3-11)

Psalms 114

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, **the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech, Judah became the sanctuary of the Lord, and Israel the dominion of God.**
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.**

Kevin The Resurrection Gospel: Matthew 28.1–10

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Kevin Reflection

The Celebration of Baptism

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

Rose. The candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Lionel: *I present Riley to receive the sacrament of baptism.*

Do you desire to be baptized?

Riley: *I do.*

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

R&L *I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

R&L *I renounce them.*

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

R&L *I renounce them.*

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?

R&L *I do.*

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

R&L *I do.*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Riley in his life in Christ?

All **We will!**

Prayers for the Candidate

Nancy Let us now pray for Riley, who is to receive the sacrament of new birth.

Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Open his heart to your grace and truth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Send him into the world in witness to your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Rose. Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

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.

The Baptism

Riley James, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I sign you with the cross, and mark you as Christ's own for ever.

Heavenly God, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit, you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

The Giving of the Light

Receive the light of Christ, to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! (John Bell)

Halle, halle, halle--lujah! Halle, halle, halle--lujah!

Halle, halle, halle--luhaj! Hallelujah! Halellujah! (x 3)

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer Over the Gifts

Anne 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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection

of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb, who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death, he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again, he has won for us eternal life.

Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name:

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. [...]

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory; [...]

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, **who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion

During Communion: Now the Green Blade Rises (CP 237)

**1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**2. In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**3. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

Prayer After Communion

Rose. Giver of all, we are nourished with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with the Spirit of love, and unite us in faith, that we may be witnesses to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you with his new life; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (CP 203)

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

**2. 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!**

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

*Special thanks to our Altar Guild for filling St Aidan's with Easter joy.
Join us again tomorrow for the Sunday of the Resurrection: April 5th at 9:30 am.
For Children, we will have Sunday School and an Easter Egg Hunt!*

Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Anne Quick

Preacher: Rev. Canon Kevin Flynn

Liturgical Animator: Rev. Rosemary Parker

Server: Susan Burns-Simpson

Intercessor: Nancy Gover

Readers: Phil Charko, Carol Fairbrother, Peter Martin, Connie Munroe, Jane Vance