

5 April 2026

10:30 a.m.



Artist: John August Swanson (1938-2021) johnaugustswanson.com

Easter Sunday

St. John's Anglican Church
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Dawna Wall
Director of Music: Donald Russell, ARCO

Heritage  *Faith*  *Vision*
St. John's ~ A National Historic Site ~ Founded 1753

Music before the Service:

Prelude on 'Rockingham' Charles Hubert Hastings Parry(1848-1918)

Mass Setting: Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude on "Easter Hymn"

H. Willan (1880-1968)

OPENING GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Standing, we sing together:

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

203 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA

THE COLLECT

God of glory, by the resurrection of your Son, you have broken the chains of death and hell: may your powerful love fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sitting, we listen to the 1st Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

For the word of God in scripture
For the word of God among us
For the word of God within us
Thanks be to God.

The choir stands to sing the Psalm:

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Organ Choir and Congregation

This is the day that the Lord has made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is / good; * his mercy en- /
dures for / ever. 2† Let Israel now pro- / claim: * his mercy
en- / dures for / ever. **Refrain**

14 The Lord is my strength and my / song : * and he has be- /
come my sal- / vation. 15 Joyful shouts of sal- / vation: *
sound from the / tents of the / righteous: 16 ‘The right hand
of the Lord does mighty deeds; the right hand of the Lord raises
/ up : * the right hand of the Lord does / mighty / deeds.’
Refrain

17 I shall not die, but / live : * and declare the / works of the /
Lord. 18 The Lord has punished me / sorely, but he has not
given me / over to / death. 19 Open to me the gates of /
righteousness, that I may enter and give / thanks to the / Lord.
Refrain

20 This is the gate of the / Lord : the righteous shall / enter /
through it. 21† I will give thanks to you, for you have /
answered me : and have be- / come my sal- / vation. **Refrain**

22 The stone which the builders re- / jected : has become the /
chief / cornerstone. 23 This is the Lord's / doing : and it is /
marvellous • in our / eyes. 24 This is the day that the Lord
has / made: we will re- / joice and be / glad in it. **Refrain**

Sitting, we listen to the 2nd Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are
above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your
minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on
earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in
God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will
be revealed with him in glory.

For the word of God in scripture
For the word of God among us
For the word of God within us
 Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL READING

Standing, we sing:

GRADUAL HYMN

228 Alleluia! O Sons and Daughters (vs 1, 2, 3, 4, 9) O Filii et Filiae

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.

Matthew 28:1-10

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 dazzling like snow.

For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for 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 worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sitting, we listen to the sermon.

THE SERMON

The choir stands to sing the Anthem.

This Joyful Eastertide Dutch Carol (arr. C. Wood 1866-1926)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, we praise and thank you for this Easter day. This is the day on which you created light and saw that it was good. This is the day in whose early morning light we discovered the tomb was empty. This is the day you have made.

God of light and joy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church, the community of those who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We rejoice that, in Christ, we have passed from darkness to light, from death to life. We pray for the whole people of God, that we may be faithful to our calling. Empower us to proclaim the good news of the Easter message.

God of light and joy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. Bring healing to your people, safeguard them in body, mind and spirit. Be present to all in need of Your loving touch, encourage, strengthen and uphold all who are weary and safeguard us from fear and anxiety and keep us always in your peace.

God of light and joy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died and for those who mourn, that in Christ who triumphs over death they may find strength and hope. Into God's hands we commend them.

God of light and joy, hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves, that we like Mary and Peter and John may see the tomb empty and, joyfully believing, walk in newness of life, working together to hasten the coming of your reign on earth. Living Christ, you are life stronger than death. Raise our eyes to see you as the new day dawns. **Amen.**

Standing for:

THE SHEMAH

**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your
soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is the first and great commandment.
The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.**

THE PEACE

OFFERTORY HYMN

447 Lord, We Hear You Word with Gladness Blaenwern

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

**Blessed are you, God of heaven and earth. Day by day you
shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life
in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise
you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets. Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us among all your creatures, to love and serve you.

When we were unfaithful to you, you kept faith with us; your love remained steadfast. When we were enslaved in Egypt, you broke the bonds of slavery, led us through the sea to freedom, and made a covenant to be our God.

By a pillar of fire you led us through the desert to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. You spoke of love and justice in the prophets, and in the Word made flesh, you lived among us manifesting your glory. He died that we might live, and is risen to raise us to new life. Therefore we praise you, singing with angels and archangels and all the faithful of every time and place, to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord whom you sent to save us. He came with healing in his touch, and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice, and mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart and met violence and death. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, giving thanks and saying, "This cup is the new covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins, Do this in remembrance of me."

In remembrance, we take from your creation this bread and this wine, and celebrate his rising to new life, as we await the day of his coming again. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you, to be a living, holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that as we share this meal, our eyes will be opened to recognize Christ with us. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn within us, that we may recognize and welcome him as host and anticipate the day when we will feast with him in heaven. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, now and forever, 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

The gifts of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

THE COMMUNION
(in both kinds – the bread and the common cup)

AGNUS DEI

COMMUNION HYMN

373 This is the Day the Lord Hath Made Irish

Standing, we pray the

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish us. Send us forth as witnesses to the resurrection, so that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

210 Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son Maccabaeus

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve Christ. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 545 J S Bach (1685-1750)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week in the life of the church:

Office is closed Easter Monday.

Family Play Group

Wednesday 9:30

Church choir practice

Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00

Assisting with the Service today:

Lectors: Maureen Moffatt, David Shimp

Licensed Lay Minister: Susan MacMillan

Assisting with the Service next week:

Lector: Patsy Perkins, Annalise Wall

Licensed Lay Minister: Jim Shephard

Many thanks to all who have helped to make our Lent to Easter journey so meaningful. Those who have read, prayed, sung, made music of all kinds, counselled, listened, created posters, worked the sound system, counted, orchestrated the live stream, printed and folded bulletins, practiced, served at the altar, cleaned up, set up, polished brass, washed, ironed and folded linens, ordered, prepared and served bread and wine, vacuumed, dusted, baked, made coffee, fed and so many other things – to all of you, those whose names are known, and those who have been behind the scenes - we are so grateful for your ministry.