



Christ Church
Cathedral
Ottawa

Easter Eve

Saturday | April 4th | 2026

8 pm | A Vigil for Easter | BAS

Welcome

Children are welcome to fully participate in the service and activity sheets are available at the entrance to the Cathedral. Sidespeople can provide headsets for those who need hearing assistance. Please turn off or set mobile devices to silent mode.

*Our diocese was founded on the homeland of the Anishinaabe Algonquins.
May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*

Service of Light

The assembly gathers at the location of the new fire (Forecourt or Great Hall).

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.

Creator, 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 lit from the new fire. A minister takes the candle, lifts it high, and the following is sung.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The procession enters the Cathedral, led by the paschal candle, followed by the cross, choir and congregation. At a suitable place, the candle is lifted high and the following sung for a second time.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The paschal candle is lifted high and the following sung for a third time.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Exsultet

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 forever and ever. **Amen.***

The Liturgy of the Word

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.

Reading | *Exodus 14:10-15:1*

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 Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: 'I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'

Canticle | *Song of Moses*

I will sing to the Lord for his glorious triumph; the horse and the rider he has hurled into the sea. The Lord has become my strength and refuge; the Lord himself has become my saviour. He is my God and I will praise him; my father's God and I will exalt him. The Lord himself is a mighty warrior; the Lord, the Lord is his name. Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power; your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods, holy, awesome, worker of wonders? In steadfast love you led your people, you guided your redeemed with your great strength. You brought them in safety to your holy place, and planted them firm on your own mountain. You brought them into your own house. The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

Prayer

God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading | *Isaiah 55:1-11*

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the

heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Canticle | *Song of Thanksgiving*

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, and he will be my Saviour. Therefore, you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say, give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his name is exalted. Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Prayer

O God, by the power of your Word you have created all things, and by your Spirit you renew the earth. Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading | *Ezekiel 36:24-28*

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Canticle | *The New Jerusalem*

Arise, shine, for your light has come; the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Though night still covers the earth and darkness covers the nations, Over you will the Lord arise, over you

will his glory appear. Nations will stream to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Your gates will always be open; day or night, they will never be shut. They will call you, The City of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Violence will no more be heard in your land, ruin or destruction within your borders; you will name your walls, Salvation, you will call your gates, Praise. No longer will the sun be your light by day, no longer the moon give you light by night; the Lord will be your eternal light; your God will be your glory.

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, in the paschal mystery you established the new covenant of reconciliation. Grant that all who are born again in baptism may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reading | *Romans 6:3-11*

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.

Gradual | *Vidi aquam* | Michael McCarthy

Vidi aquam egredientem de templo, a latere dextro, et omnes ad quos pervenit aqua ista, salvi facti sunt, confitemini Domino, quoniam bonus, Alleluia. | I saw water flowing out of the temple, from its right side, and all to whom this water came were saved, give thanks to the Lord for he is good, Alleluia.

Holy 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.

Offertory Hymn 215 | *Come ye faithful, raise the strain*



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Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Thanksgiving over the Water

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, Creator, 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 forever 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 forever. **Amen.**

The Baptismal Covenant

Dear friends, through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

Do you 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.

Signing of the Cross

All are invited to come forward to mark the renewal of their baptismal vows by receiving the sign of the cross in water on their foreheads to the word, "Remember, you are Christ's own for ever."

Concluding Prayer

God the Creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May he keep us faithful to our calling, now and 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.

The Peace

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his peace be with you.

And also with you.

The Sending of the Community

Blessing and Dismissal

May the grace of Jesus Christ our risen Lord, the love of God who raised him from the dead, and the power of the Holy Spirit who fills the world with new life, bless and keep you, this night and always. **Amen.**

Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Hymn 214 | *The Lamb's high banquet called to share*

Postlude | *Choral Improvisation sur "Victimae paschali"* | Charles Tournemire

Officiant | The Reverend Canon Doug Richards

Exsultet | The Reverend Dr. Jarrett Carty

Gospeller | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff

Readers | Peter Webber | John Serrati | Rebecca Officer | Barbara Morris

Duty Warden | Stephen Giles

Organists | James Calkin | Ryan Enright

Director | Andrew McAnerney

Sung by | Lay Clerks

Liturgy: *The Book of Alternative Services* ©1985, *The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use* ©2016 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV)* Anglicized Edition, ©1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Easter Day

8.30 am | Holy Eucharist
10.30 am | Festal Eucharist

Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa

Anishinaabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan | A place of prayer on Algonquin territory
The Anglican Cathedral in the Nation's Capital
Cathedral of the Canadian Forces Anglican Military Ordinariate

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Dean of Ottawa and Rector | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff (ext. 161)
Vicar | The Reverend Canon Douglas Richards (ext. 191)
Deacon Residentiary | The Reverend Dr. Jarrett Carty
Honorary Assistants | The Reverend Joan Riding | The Reverend Victoria Scott |
LCol (ret'd) The Venerable Michelle Staples | Lt (N) The Reverend Katherine Walker
Lay Readers | Daniel Jerusalemiec | Ted Livingstone
Director of Music and Organist | James Calkin (ext. 201)
Associate Director of Music | Andrew McAnerney (ext. 121)
Music Associate | Nick Veltmeyer
Algonquin Teacher in Residence | Albert Dumont (Oshki Nodin)
Church Wardens | Katherine Spencer-Ross | Stephen Giles
Director of Operations and Development | Nicholas Galambos (ext. 171)
