

St. Helen's Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of New Westminster

Easter Sunday
April 5, 2026



Presider: The Ven. Richard Leggett
Preacher: The Ven. Richard Leggett
Deacon : The Reverend Jeffrey Preiss

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

All stand

PRELUDE

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Paschal Candle. All the lights in the church are turned off.

Presider

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end.

Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to Christ,
and all ages;

**to Christ be glory and power,
through every age and for ever. Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God.

As we hear God's word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share Christ's victory over death and live with Christ for ever.

The Paschal Candle is lit.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The ministers process to the front of the church, pausing to light congregational candles along the way. Three times the ministers stop and the Deacon raises the Candle and sings,

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE EXSULTET

Once the Paschal Candle is placed in its stand, the Deacon chants the Exsultet, the Easter Proclamation. At the end of the Exsultet the Deacon proclaims,

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The lights of the church are turned on. The congregation extinguishes their candles.

GLORY TO GOD

CP 702

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING JEREMIAH 31.1-6 Suzanne Windsor Liscombe

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118.1-2, 14-24



This is the day our God made, let us re-joice and be glad.



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

Give thanks to God who is good;
whose mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim,
"God's mercy endures for ever." **R.**

God is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.
There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the
righteous:

"The right hand of the Most High has triumphed!
the right hand of the Most High is exalted!
the right hand of the Mighty One has triumphed!" **R.**

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

Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to God.
"This is the gate of the Holy One;
those who are righteous may enter." **R.**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.
The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone. **R.**

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

SECOND READING ACTS 10.34-43

Angela White

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and all in the house: "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.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (x2)

CP 457

Choir:

See how salvation for all has been won;

Up from the grace our new life has begun;

Life now perfected in Jesus, the Son: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (x2)

THE HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 20.1-18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 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’s 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 touch 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (x2)

CP 457

SERMON

The Ven. Dr Richard Leggett

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Presider

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. Let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected Satan and all the powers that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God, and promised to serve God faithfully in the communion of the holy catholic Church.

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

I do.

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, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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. Amen.**

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.

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 God keep us faithful to our calling,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

David Van Blarcom

INTERCESSIONS, PETITIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

In joy and hope, let us pray to the Source of all life, saying:
"Lord of glory, hear us!"
Lord of glory, **hear us!**

Source of life, fill us with the joy of Christ's holy and life-giving resurrection.

Lord of glory, **hear us!**

May isolated and persecuted churches find fresh strength in the Easter gospel.

Lord of glory, **hear us!**

Grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love.

Lord of glory, **hear us!**

Provide for those who lack food, work or shelter.

Lord of glory, **hear us!**

By your power may wars and family cease through all the earth.

Lord of glory, **hear us!**

Reveal the light of your presence to the sick, the weak and the dying,

that they may be comforted and strengthened.

Lord of glory, **hear us!**

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

Alleluia. Christ has been raised from the dead.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

As the altar is prepared for Holy Communion, the congregation is invited to make an offering as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing CP 211

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,
ruler 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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin,

who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

CP 719

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With blessed Helen and your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for 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.

LAMB OF GOD

CP 745

THE COMMUNION

All who seek Christ and are drawn to this holy table are invited to come forth to receive Holy Communion. Dipping the bread (intinction) into the wine is not permitted. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, please indicate such by placing your right hand over your heart.

COMMUNION HYMN Jesus Is Risen from the Grave

CP 242

Now the Green Blade Rises

CP 237

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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 your people.

Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,

so that we may show your glory to all the world,

through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

EASTER BLESSING

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
the Holy One of Israel,
the Word of redemption and
the Spirit of wisdom,
be with you now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son CP 210

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and proclaim that Christ is risen. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

*Please be seated for the postlude. The community disperses in silence.
In respect of those who may linger in contemplation,
conversation is reserved for the narthex.*

Upcoming Events at St. Helen's

“Faith in Disaster: Finding Deep Hope in the Climate Crisis”

Harold Munn, former Dean of Edmonton, and frequent guest presider and preacher, will read excerpts from his second book, *“Faith in Disaster,”* share how Easter joy transforms our climate fear, and will engage in conversation with attendees.

Friday April 10th: 7.00 – 9.00 p.m. St. Helen's, 4405 W 8th Ave.

Friday May 1st: 7.30 – 9.30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard St.

July 26th – August 1st: week course at Sorrento Centre, Sorrento, B.C.

YOU ARE INVITED!

FIND YOUR PLACE AT ST. HELEN'S!

During April we are focussing on the importance of our parish as an interactive community. Please join us as we explore ways to make our commitment to St. Helen's more dynamic!

April 12 – WELCOME! – Attend our services, stay for coffee, chat, and visit our parishioner opportunities!

April 19 – ENGAGE! – Learn more about how you can attend full-time or part-time and still engage in our community involvement. What are the opportunities? Come and find out!

April 26 – VOLUNTEER! – Our church community is the people! Help sustain our parish life in an enriching way.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

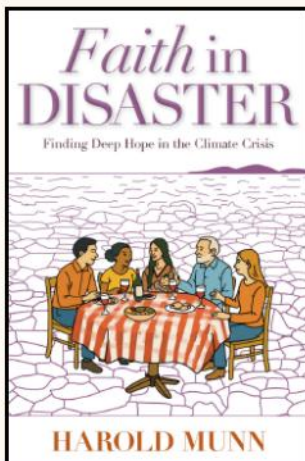
Next Week's Scripture Readings

The First Reading: Acts 2.14A, 22-32

The Second Reading: 1 Peter 1.3-9

The Gospel: John 20.19-31

FAITH IN DISASTER: Finding Deep Hope in the Climate Crisis

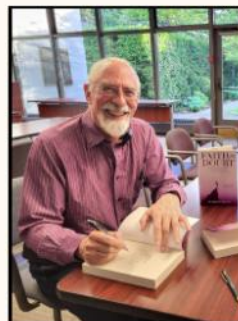


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See future events, read reviews, order the book at www.haroldmunnbooks.com

How to Contribute to St. Helen's Financially

We deeply appreciate financial contributions to our shared congregational life and mission. The best ways to donate are:

- Set up a Pre-Authorized Donation - simply send an email to sthelenswpg@gmail.com to get started or change your amount
- Donate via interact e-transfer to sthelenswpg@gmail.com
- Scan the QR code to the right or visit sthelensvancouver.com/give to donate via credit card
- Use one of the envelopes available at the back of the church by the offering plate to donate via cheques or cash



Volunteers Today:

Intercessor: David Van Blarcom

Readers: Suzanne Windsor Liscombe, Angela White

Lay Administrators: Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, Paula Pryce

Counter: Dale O'Brien

Zoom: Tony Hodgson

Volunteers Next Week:

Intercessor: Hepsi Chand

Readers: Shawn de Raaf, Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe

Lay Administrators: Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, Suzanne Windsor-Liscombe

Counter: Lynn Raymond

Zoom: Lynn Raymond

Connect with us:

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