

Church of the Good Shepherd

Saint John, New Brunswick

THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION: EASTER DAY!

The First Day of the Great Fifty Days of Easter



April 05, 2026

EASTER DAY, the delight of new life for all who put their trust in Christ. We celebrate the truth and mystery of the empty tomb. It is with inexpressible joy that we, as church, come to this house of prayer to worship our Lord in hymns and songs of praise, and in word and sacrament.

Jesus lives – now and always!!

10:30 am

EASTER HOLY COMMUNION

The liturgy is according to *The Book of Alternative Services* (adapted).

All who are baptised in the Christian faith and regardless of their church background are welcome to receive communion. Any not receiving communion but would like to have a blessing prayed for them are welcome to come to the altar rail. To receive this blessing simply do not extend your hands for the bread, and the priest will know to pray for you. Children who are brought up to the Altar rail will receive a blessing from the priest.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Church and Friends Gather for Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Introduction

ALL STAND, AS ABLE.

Easter Day Greeting

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer and Lighting of the Easter Candle

While still standing, as we're able, let us pray.

Eternal God, who made this holy day to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and forever. Amen.

THE EASTER CANDLE IS LIT. The presider then says,

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

Easter Declaraion of Praise *said by all*

**Sing choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Around God's throne exalt in harmony!
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Salute your king in glorious symphony!
Sing choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past; the day of life is here!
Sing church of God! Exalt with joy out poured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!
Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore!
Let all God's people shout the long Amen!**

Processional Hymn “*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!

*Text anonymous
Tune EASTER HYMN*

WE REMAIN STANDING, AS ABLE, AND CONTINUE WITH THE FOLLOWING.

Resurrection Introductory Response

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

God has claimed us as his own.

He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

“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.**

PLEASE KNEEL OR BE SEATED.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection
of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED.

GOD'S WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

First Reading Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² 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. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’ [NRSV-A]

Hear God’s word for God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24*

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
 his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 **Let Israel now proclaim, ***
 “His mercy endures for ever.”
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
 and he has become my salvation.
- 15 **There is a sound of exultation and victory ***
 in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 “The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
 the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
 the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!”
- 17 **I shall not die, but live, ***
 and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *
 but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 **Open for me the gates of righteousness; ***
 I will enter them;
 I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 “This is the gate of the Lord; *
 he who is righteous may enter.”
- 21 **I will give thanks to you, for you answered me ***
 and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
 has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 **This is the Lord’s doing, ***
 and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
 we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from Colossians.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn "I Serve a Risen Saviour" MP 295

1 I serve a risen Saviour,
He's in the world today;
I know that He is living,
Whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy,
I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him
He's always near.

Chorus:

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and He talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He live, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives:
He lives within my heart.*

2 In all the world around me
I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary
I never will despair;
I know that He is leading
Thro' all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing
Will come at last.

3 Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
Lift up your voice and sing

Eternal hallelujahs
To Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek Him,
The help of all who find,
None other is so loving,
So good and kind.

*Alfred Henry Ackley +1960 © 1961 Word Music
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AS ABLE, WE REMAIN STANDING.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die,
will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me
will never die.'

John 11.25,26

Alleluia.

Gospel John 20:1-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ 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. ² 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.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and

believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.’ ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ 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.’ ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ 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.”’ ¹⁸ 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. [NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon Fr Chris Ketch

Quiet reflection

Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say,
**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

In joy and hope, let us pray to the source of all life
saying, "Hear us, Lord of glory!"
Please kneel or be seated for our prayers.

Silence is held for a time.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, this Easter season and always,

let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That isolated and persecuted churches may find new strength in the Easter gospel, as they daily struggle to live their life in Christ with freedom; a freedom we take for granted,

let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love,

let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, and that we remain always open to his call to reach out, in love, to others,

let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, and praying especially for the innocent victims of war,

let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened,

let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,

let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

These and all our prayers we offer to you, Lord of glory,
God most merciful and gracious, in the name of him who
was crucified and who rose from the dead, Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Invitation, Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

**Lord Jesus,
in expectation of your healing forgiveness
won for us in your crucifixion,
and coming to us
through the open door of the empty tomb,
we confess our sins to you.
We are sorry for what we have and have not
done
which have fallen short of your ways.
Forgive us and restore us
in the joy of new life in you. Amen.**

The Lord God almighty,
most gracious and merciful,
forgive you your sins,
heal you from your guilt
and fill you with the Holy Spirit
to live for Jesus Christ
all the days of your life. **Amen.**

PLEASE ALL STAND, AS ABLE.

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

John 20.19, 20

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST IS CELEBRATED

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Offertory Anthem “*Come People of the Risen King*”

1 Come, people of the Risen King,
 Who delight to bring Him praise;
 Come all and tune your hearts to sing
 To the Morning Star of grace.
 From the shifting shadows of the earth
 We will lift our eyes to Him,
 Where steady arms of mercy reach
 To gather children in.

*Refrain: Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

2 Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
 And those weeping through the night;
 Come, those who tell of battles won,
 And those struggling in the fight.
 For His perfect love will never change,
 And His mercies never cease,
 But follow us through all our days
 With the certain hope of peace.

3 Come, young and old from every land -
 Men and women of the faith;
 Come, those with full or empty hands -
 Find the riches of His grace.
 Over all the world, His people sing -

Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age:
“Our God is all in all”!

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend and Kristyn Lennox Getty
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Prayer over the Gifts

As we're standing, let us pray.

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
we believe you, and all we have heard is true.
When you break bread
may we recognize you
as the fire that burns within us,
that we may bring light to your world. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

AS ABLE, WE REMAIN STANDING.

The Lord is here.
The Spirit of God is with us.

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 good to thank and praise you,
holy and gracious God,
creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer
of life;
for you, holy Father, are the source of all goodness, rich
in mercy and abounding in love;
you are faithful to your people in every generation, and
your word endures forever.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
with the fellowship of the saints
and the company of heaven,
we glorify your holy name,

evermore praising you and saying,

**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.**

PLEASE KNEEL OR BE SEATED

We praise you, merciful God,
not as we ought, but as we are able,
because in your tender love
you gave your only Son to the world,
in order that the world might be saved through him.
He made you known by taking the form of a servant,
by healing the sick, liberating the oppressed,
and seeking out to lost.
Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross,
he confronted the power of sin
and disarmed it forever.
In his offering of himself, he became the perfect
and all-sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.
Redeemed by Christ,
we have been adopted as your children;
by your pardon
you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus,
at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat:
this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks
he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you,

this is my blood which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.”

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts
we approach your holy table,
remembering our Saviour’s sacrifice,
and rejoicing in his victory.
Send your Holy Spirit on us
and on this meal we share,
granting that we who receive this bread and this cup
may partake of the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith
with thanksgiving.
May we be renewed in his risen life,
filled with his love,
and strengthened in our will to serve others;
and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice,
acceptable to you,
knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

And now, as Jesus has taught us, we boldly say,
**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

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 Communion

Come, humbly, with joy in your hearts:
receive bread,
the body of our Lord Jesus Christ broken for you.
Drink wine, his blood shed for you.
Eat and drink with faith and thanksgiving.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Thanks be to God.

**PLEASE SEE THE TOP OF PAGE 2 REGARDING THE RECEIVING OF COMMUNION.
DURING THIS TIME OF RECEIVING COMMUNION, WE ENJOY TIME FOR REFLECTION
AND PRAYER, OR TO SING THE FOLLOWING MUSIC.**

**Communion music - from the blue hymn book,
Common Praise**

“Who Is There on this Easter Morning” CP 229

“Lift Your Voice Rejoicing, Mary” CP 234

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
 In the seed, an apple tree;
 in cocoons, a hidden promise;
 butterflies will soon be free!
 In the cold and snow of winter
 there's a spring that awaits to be,

unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
 seeking word and melody;
 There's a dawn in every darkness,
 bringing hope to you and me.
 From the past will come the future;
 what it holds, a mystery,
 Unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
 in our time, infinity;
 In our doubt there is believing;
 in our life, eternity,
 In our death, a resurrection;
 at the last, a victory,
 Unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see.

*Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.
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AFTER COMMUNION

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God almighty and giver of life, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**He has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia. Alleluia!

The 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 benediction of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, God the Three yet ever One, bless you, keep you, and bestow in you his grace, love, and peace, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in the hope of the risen Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Recessional Hymn "Yours be the Glory" CP 210

1 Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.
Angels robed in splendour rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

Refrain *Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you won.*

2 See! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord is living; death hath lost its sting!

Refrain

3 No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;
what is life without you: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through your deathless
love;
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.

Refrain

Text Edmond Budry (1854-1932) trans. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)
Tune JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Postlude

Those serving for today's worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Susan Dole & Nancy K. & Lori M.
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Patti & Jim Touchbourne
<i>Layreader & First Reader</i>	Brenda Clayton
<i>Second Reader</i>	Sherry Desjardins
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Presider & preacher</i>	Chris Ketch
<i>Guitarist</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Violin</i>	Bob McCausland
<i>Flute</i>	Helen Gollings

<i>Trumpet</i>	Fr. Keith Joyce
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Beverly Janes

Those serving in our outreach this week:

Sun, April 5, 11:45 am HVHS Lunch Programme preparation (Large Hall kitchen)	No Lunch School is closed
Mon, April 6, 11:30 am HVHS Lunch Programme delivery (from Large Hall)	No Lunch School is closed

Who's serving next week is on the Narthex bulletin board.

THIS WEEK

- Wed, Apr 8, 10:00 am** Saint John and District Senior's Shuffleboard (Large Hall) For more info contact Pauline Wilson at 506 738-8677
- Wed, Apr 8, 7:00 pm** Choir practice (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798

FOR OUR WORSHIP and LEARNING

Next Sunday – April 12 *Second Sunday of Easter* Scripture readings Acts 2:14-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

PRAYER

Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes

Ginny Abbott, Diane Cormier, Frances Finley, Ann Hoben, Ruth Northeast, Elizabeth Parks, Arlene Trask

Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home

Andrew Aalund, Diane Basque, Margaret Boyer, Edith Chilton, Shelly Clark Collins, Linda Cunningham, Jo-Ann Diamond, Bonnie Dean, Wendy DeWitt, Ernest Ellingwood, Barb Ellis, Debbie Green, Kaye Mallory, Pam Melanson, Michael Penchoff, Susan Penchoff, Carol Price, Margaret Ann Reid, Lois Shaw, Bob Sherwood, Mykayla Spinney, Norm Toole, Dennis Totton, Joe Totton, Robbie Wong.

Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of April 5-11

Please enjoy a blessed Easter Week!

Saint John Mission to Seafarers Prayer Cycle:

In April, we pray for shipping companies and ship managers, that they may conduct business that is profitable and offer employment that is fair to the seafarers.

OUR PARISH PRAYER TREE

A team of volunteers is available upon request, to pray for you or your loved one (with their permission) daily, for two weeks. These prayers will be treated with the strictest confidence. Prayer-requests should be short and to the point and will be passed on verbatim. The Lord knows best what we need! A follow-up of thanks or an update encourages our intercessors in their ministry.

To initiate the prayer-tree ministry please call your request to our “Captain”, Ngaire Nelson 672-8666

**FIFTY DAYS TO CELEBRATE that
JESUS IS ALIVE
*BECAUSE HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD!***

It has been said of the relationship between Lent and Easter - **Lent is forty days of preparation for fifty days of celebration.** Easter begins today with the First Eucharist of Easter. Now we continue in these remarkable days.

May we all know a new vitality and strength coming out of our Lenten disciplines and into the joy and power of the Easter season.

Here follow some thoughts by a well-known writer on Christ's resurrection at this the start of Eastertide.

What are we to make of the Resurrection?

"I heard a man say, 'The importance of the Resurrection is that it gives evidence of survival, evidence that the human personality survives death.' On that view what happened to Christ would be what had always happened to all people, the difference being that in Christ's case we were privileged to see it happening. This is certainly not what the earliest Christian writers thought. Something perfectly new in the history of the Universe had happened. Christ had defeated death.

The door which had always been locked had for the very first time been forced open. This is something quite distinct from mere ghost-survival. I don't mean that they disbelieved in ghost-survival. On the contrary, they believed in it so firmly that, on more than one occasion, Christ had had to assure them that He was not a ghost. The point is that while believing in survival they yet regarded the Resurrection as something totally different and new. The Resurrection narratives are not a picture of survival after death; they record how a totally new mode of being has arisen in the universe. Something new had appeared in the universe: as new as the first coming of organic life. This Man, after death, does not get divided into "ghost" and "corpse". A new mode of being has arisen. That is the story. What are we going to make of it?

The question is, I suppose, whether any hypothesis covers the facts so well as the Christian hypothesis. That hypothesis is that God has come down into the created universe, down to manhood—and come up again, pulling it up with Him. The alternative hypothesis is not legend, nor exaggeration, nor the apparitions of a ghost. It is either lunacy or lies. Unless one can take the second alternative (and I can't) one turns to the Christian theory."

by C.S. Lewis from *"What Are We"*



**A Blessed and Happy
EASTER DAY,
EASTER WEEK,
and Easter Season
to All!!**