



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich
St. Mary Church St. Stephen Church
Faith - Family - Friendship



**Welcome To
PARISH OF CENTRAL SAANICH
St. Stephen Church**



EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 5, 2026

*We acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional
lands of the WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish peoples*

St. Mary's Service:

Sunday Service: 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Communion: 10:00 a.m.

St. Stephen's Service:

Sunday Service: 11:15 a.m.

Continue to monitor our website - ParishCS.ca

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Incumbent

Associated Clergy: Bishop Logan McMenamie
The Ven. Bob Baillie
The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane
The Rev. Paul Schumacher,
The Rev. Gil Shoemith, deacon

HOLY EUCHARIST

Book of Alternative Services

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding & Preaching

A Warm Welcome to all who worship with us, especially visitors.

With thanks, please mute your cell phones during the service.

The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

Prelude – *Joanne Lambert*

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Gathering Song: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* (CP #203)

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**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!**

**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!**

The Gathering of the Community

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Presider May his grace and peace be with you.

People May he fill our hearts with joy.

Presider Almighty God,

**All 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.**

***Glory to God on High* CP (#365)**

**Glory to God on high,
and peace to all on earth.
We worship you, we give you thanks,
our heavenly King.**

**We give you praise,
almighty God and Father blessed
in glory bright.**

**Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
the Father's only son,
The sacrificial Lamb,
who saves the world from sin,
have mercy Lord.
Beside the Father's hand enthroned,
now hear our prayer.**

**You only are the Lord.
You only are most high.
You only are the holy one,
Lord Jesus Christ.
And now you reign
with Father and with Spirit one
in glorious light.**

Centering Stillness:

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God. (Silence)

**The Prayer of the Day: Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked,
no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, so that we may
seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and
peace, to the praise of God, the Source of all life. Amen.**

Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) alt.

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Jeremiah 31:1-6 – Bob Buchanan

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

² Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

³ the Lord appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴ 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 merrymakers.

⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;
the planters shall plant
and shall enjoy the fruit.
6 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 of God is saying.

Thanks be to God

Responsive Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 – Bob Buchanan

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.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Acts 10:34-43 – *Deb Butler*

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.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God

Gradual: *The Day of Resurrection* (CP #205)

**The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
The round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen**

**their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.**

Richard: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Richard: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (CP #715 – refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

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. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ 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.”

Richard: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (CP #715 – refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

Nicene Creed

Presider Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**All 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: by 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 – Richard Routledge

Absolution:

As people of the Resurrection, we are redeemed sinners.

Presider: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *All stand*

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another

Offertory: Alleluia No. 1 (CP #405)

Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth;

He is the king of creation. Refrain

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen.**

Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

**We have been crucified with Christ;
Now we shall live forever. *Refrain***

**Come, let us praise the living God;
Joyfully sing to our Savior. *Refrain***

Prayer over the Gifts: God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you this day, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

Eucharistic Prayer #3

Presider: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and proclaim our words of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus & Benedictus – *music, Land of Rest,*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest; Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the 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 of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

Presider: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

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.**

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray: *(sung)*

The Lord's Prayer – *Gordon Light*

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread:

Presider: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All: Now we are raised to new life.

Presider: We were buried in your tomb.

All: Now we share in your resurrection.

Presider: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Administration of Holy Communion

All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.

*If you prefer not to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing,
please cross your arms over your chest.*

Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Instrumental music during Communion

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

Prayer after Communion: God of life, bring us to the glory of the resurrection promised in this Easter sacrament. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology

Presider: Glory to God

**All: whose love, 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.**

Blessing

Sending Song: *Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son* (CP #210)

**Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won;**

Angels robed in splendour, rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes, where your body lay.

Refrain:

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

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 has lost its sting. *(Refrain)*

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)*

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

CCLI# 245534

READINGS FOR APRIL 12, 2026

Exodus 15:1-11; Psalm 111; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR EASTER – If you wish to make a special offering to give thanks to God for all that he has given, please use the envelope enclosed in your Easter letter. These special offerings are used for the General Operation of the Church.

SPECIAL THANKS to the members of the Flower Guild and their helpers who have decorated our church so beautifully for Easter, and to Joanne for enhancing our Holy Week and Easter Services. Thank you also to those who have brought donations for the Food Bank.



ST. STEPHEN OUTREACH – In your offering envelope package you will find special monthly outreach envelopes. For those who do not have offering envelopes, you may bring your outreach offering in a plain envelope, marked “Outreach for Month of ____” with your name and address.

MONTH	DESIGNATION
February	Saanich Peninsula Health/Hospital Foundation - Donations provide funding toward the Spiritual Health Practitioner (formerly Chaplaincy) program at the hospital.
March	Rector’s Discretionary Fund - This is a dedicated fund under the Rector’s control and discretion which provides (but is not limited to) financial assistance to members of the parish and the wider community.
April	General Outreach - Monies donated for General Outreach are dedicated at the end of the year to be used for requests received during the year and to “top up” totals in monthly outreach designations.
May	Blue Bus Ministry - Our donations help fund programs and staffing at this non-profit counselling and training agency which is funded solely through donations, fees, and grants.
June	Anglican Appeal - Donations support the mission work and ministry in Canada’s North and our church partners overseas

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico. We pray for Archbishop Sarah Mullally; the Anglican Church of Canada and Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate; John Stephens, Metropolitan of The Province of B.C and Yukon We also pray for Archbishop Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Anna, our bishop; for those discerning Holy Orders in the Diocese

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Parish of St. Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak and for those in their Parish and neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of the Saanich Peninsula Catholic Parish and Friendship Community Church.

Our Parish Clergy: Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul and Gil

Postulants: Gary & Richard

Seminarian: Melanie

In our Parish: We pray for Sue Rumball and Melanie Bolser and for their families.

For those ill or in need of prayer: Neville & Patricia, Roche, Diana A., Fern, Dennis, Glenda, Dawn, Sybil, Roy, Jillian, Willa, Brett, Lynn S. Jacqueline Stober

For Those with Long-Term Needs: Cheryl, Ted, Phil J., Natalie, Jamie, Jane & Paul, Margery, Courtney, Kristen, Brad, Kim

For friends beyond the parish: Jennifer, Jo-Jo, Margot, Sharie, John K., Helen, Andrew, Sheila, Lynn W., Jim C., David F., Dani R. & family, Hayden, Carlos, Bryan, Karen & family, Drew, Sheila P., Amy, Betty E., Alysha, Sue P., Michelle, Cassidy, Carl G., Keith & Lillian, Michael A., Jasmine, Kai, Chris P., Paula, Cathy Swinscoe, Arianne, Chad

In the greater community: We pray for all victims of sexual misconduct and abuse. We are all called to create communities where all children of God are safe and respected.

We pray for those impacted or endangered by the toxic drug supply crisis and also for their loved ones who are, or have been, impacted.



Christ is Risen!

CLERGY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

His Cell Phone: (250) 208-9949

His email: ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

***Note:** Worshippers may be photographed or recorded as part of the service. If this is of concern to you, please talk to the Minister or Wardens.*

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