

*Please practice Health protocols that make you feel comfortable.
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

HOLY EUCHARIST

Diocese of Islands and Inlets Liturgy

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding

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

Gathering Song: 🎵 *That Eastertide with Joy was Bright* (CP #231

Vss 1, 2, 4)

**That Eastertide with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light,
alleluia, alleluia!**

**when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide;
alleluia, alleluia!**

**the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.**

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Jesus, the king of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,
alleluia, alleluia!**

**that we may give thee all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise.**

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Gathering of the Community:

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Presider: May his grace and peace be with you.

All: May he fill our hearts with joy.

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Presider: In this time and place we gather on the ancestral lands of the WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish Peoples.

All: From many places and Peoples, we come to this house in prayer.

Lay Asst.: In this time and place we are not alone for we meet in the presence of the living God.

All: For we meet in the presence of the living God.

Lay Asst.: In this time and place we are not alone for the Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

All: The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

Lay Asst.: In this time and space we are not alone for the wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

All: The wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

Presider: In this time and space we are not alone for we gather with the whole company of heaven. In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

All: In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

Lay Asst.: In this time and place together, one People in Jesus Christ.

**All: In the name of God, Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Act of Praise: ♪ Spirit, Open my Heart

Chorus:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.

As you love, may I love in receiving and in giving.

Spirit, open my heart.

**God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.**

**All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. (chorus)**

**Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
may my living bring you glory. (chorus)**

**May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. (chorus)**

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 READINGS

Exodus 15; 1-11 – Sean Lyon

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.²The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him; my father’s God, and I will exalt him.³The Lord is a warrior; Lord is his name. ⁴Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea.⁵The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.⁶Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power — your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.⁷In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury; it consumed them like stubble.⁸At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. ⁹The enemy said, ‘I will pursue; I will overtake; I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’ ¹⁰You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. ¹¹Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 111 – S. Lyon

¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the deeds of the Lord!

They are studied by all who delight in them.

³ His work is full of majesty and splendour,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

⁵ He gives food to those who fear him;

he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works

in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;

all his commandments are sure.

⁸ They stand fast for ever and ever,

because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever;

holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures forever.

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.

1 Peter 1: 3-9 – Marian Towstego

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice,^[a] even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual: ♪ *We Walk by Faith*

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;

No gracious words we hear

From Him who spoke as none ne'er spoke,

But we believe him near.

**2. We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
And cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound,
To call on you when you are near,
And seek where you are found.**

**4. That when our lives of faith are done,
In realms of clearer light,
We may behold you as you are,
With full and endless sight.**

Gil: God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Gil: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospel Acclamation: ♪ *Alleluia* (CP #715 – refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

John 20:19-31 – Gil Shoesmith

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Judean religious leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side.

Do not doubt but believe.’²⁸ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’²⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: ♪ *Alleluia* (CP #715 – refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

SERMON – Melanie Ihmels

The Apostle’s Creed:

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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.

The Prayers of the People – Gil Shoesmith

Confession & Absolution:

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

Silence is kept.

Presider: Most merciful God,

All: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

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

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

All: And also with you.

The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another in a manner that feels safe for you.

Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.

Offertory: ♪ Hallelujah

**A crown of thorns placed on His head
He knew that He would soon be dead
He said did you forget me Father did you?
They nailed Him to a wooden cross
Soon all the world would feel the loss
Of Christ the King before His Hallelujah**

Refrain:

Hallelujah, hallelujah

Hallelujah, hallelujah

**He hung His head and prepared to die
Then lifted His face up to the sky
Said I am coming home now Father to you
A reed which held His final sip
Was gently lifted to his lips
He drank His last and gave His soul to glory *Refrain***

**Took from his head the thorny crown
And wrapped him in a linen gown
And laid him down to rest inside the tomb
The holes in his hands, his feet and side
Now in our hearts we know he died
To save us from ourselves oh Hallelujah *Refrain***

**Three days went by again they came
To move the stone to bless the slain
With oil and spice anointing hallelujah
But as they went to move the stone
They saw that they were not alone
But Jesus Christ has risen Hallelujah *Refrain***

Prayer over the Gifts:

God of grace, you have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Accept all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

EUCCHARIST

Presider: God is here

All: The Spirit is with us.

Presider: Lift up your hearts and minds.

All: We lift them to God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

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

Presider: It is indeed right that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky. You made us in your image. And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own, to nurture them in the way of compassionate love. You sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary. Jesus revealed your love for all Creation, and showed us the way of reconciliation.

Having lived among us - Jesus suffered the cross, Died, and in rising again became the firstborn of the renewed family. And so as we gather around your table, With saints of every age and your beloved creation we raise our voices and sing:

♪ **Sanctus & Benedictus** (*Kingsfold*)

**O holy, holy holy God,
O God of time and space
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace
Hosanna in the highest heave'n
creation sings your praise
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always**

Presider: To you be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, when he had given thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; 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, Poured out for you and for many; do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Presider: Recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this, our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son.

When all of creation groans, unite us in Christ and give us your hope that we might be strengthened to do your work, as your body in the world.

Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit, all praise and glory be yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**All: 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 forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread:

Presider: Creator of all, who summons the salmon from the depths of the seas to yearn for the place of their origin.

All: So may your Spirit stir on our hearts to return and find our home in you.

Administration of Communion

*All are invited to share in the Bread or a blessing
Please cross your arms at the rail if you would like a blessing.
Gluten Free Wafers are available upon request.*

Communion Hymn: ♪ *This Is the Body of Christ*

**This is the body of Christ,
Broken that we may be whole;
This cup, as promised by God,
True to his word, cradles our Lord;
Food for the good of the soul. (*sing three times*)**

Prayer after Communion:

Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through 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: 🎵 *Sing a New Song* (CP #312)

Refrain:

*Sing a new song unto the Lord
let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
singing alleluia.*

**Yahweh's people dance for joy.
O come before the Lord.
And play for him on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound. (Refrain)**

**Rise, O children, from your sleep
your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with song. (Refrain)**

**Glad my soul for I have seen
the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds the dead shall be raised.
I know my Savior lives. (Refrain)**

Dismissal:

Prisider: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

CCLI# 245534

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the parish hall

READINGS FOR April 19, 2026

Isaiah 51: 1-6, Psalm 34: 7-15, 1 Peter 1: 17-23, Luke 24: 13-35

**Thank you to all who assisted with the service today:
Joanne Lambert, Sean Lyon, Marian Towstego, Gil Shoosmith**

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT - There will be a funeral service for **Nancy Jackson**, long standing member of the Parish of Central Saanich, St. Mary on Thursday, April 23 at 2PM.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – The Men's breakfast will be Saturday April 25th, 9:30 a.m. at St. Stephen. Please email ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca to RSVP.

*note: new start time.

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
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 Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola. 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; St. Philip, Oak Bay.

Regional Cycle of Prayer: We pray for our **Parish of Central Saanich, St. Mary, and Stephen**; current and retired clergy, and the people for the parish and the neighborhood.

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

Postulants: Gary & Richard

Seminarian: Melanie

In our Parish: We pray for Lynn and Paul Schumacher and Patricia Bonham 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

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***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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