

ORDER OF SERVICE
April 4, 2021, 2021 - Palm Sunday

INTRODUCTION

“The Lord is Risen. He is risen, indeed!”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on Easter Sunday. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord..

Reading the lessons is Dr. Rob Knetsch. Anthems are performed by Joceylyn Belfer and Gabriella Proffitt, and David McCartney on piano and organ. And the litany is led by Joshua Jayakumar.

So let us hear Holy Scripture, reflect and pray together, and open our hearts to the Living Word, Jesus Christ - our risen Saviour and Lord.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord of life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, you have overcome the old order of sin and death and have made all things new in him. May we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, reign with him in glory, who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

Duet

Alleluia, Christ is Risen, Jocelyn Belfer, Gabriella Proffitt

LESSONS

First Reading

ACTS 10:34-43

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Then Peter began to speak to the Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right 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."

The Psalm

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

READER: From Psalm 118

PSALM

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, "His mercy endures for ever."

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

"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely, but he did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

"This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter."

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.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading

JOHN 20:1-18

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

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' 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 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.'" 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.

HOMILY

Fr. Dean Mercer

ANTHEM

Hymn Medley, David McCartney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

CALL TO PRAYER - Easter Sunday

Easter Lilies - are given to the glory of God and by:

Mary Lynn Watt in memory of Paul Watt

Janat Jayamanoharan in memory of Joseph Benedict

Terngu Adzua in memory of Timothy Adzua

Sonia Mongford for God's many blessings

Sandra Johnson in thankfulness and in memory of my parents Mirian and Christopher Johnson

George Coomasamy in memory of Philip Coomasamy

Anjeline Thisairajah in thanksgiving

Annette Brownlee in thanksgiving for my family, students, and church family

Pauline Bloomfield for God's blessings on all of us

Carleatha Bradshaw

A donor in thanksgiving for God's blessing of granddaughter Daniella

Norma McLean in memory of all those we have lost

Joe and Jennifer Sue-Ho

Pauline Williams

Cheryl Grant

Naomi Ammah

Debbie Preston

Church Service Attendance Limit Increased to 40 (15%)

As of March 21, the Bishops have supported the provincial Church service attendance increase of 15% of capacity, which is 40 people at St. Paul's. A full schedule of Holy Week is now set and from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday all services will be accessible in-person or online. The Stations of the Cross on Wednesday of Holy Week will be accessible by Zoom only.

Schedule

The full schedule of in-person and online services and programs can be found on the online church calendar - www.stpl.ca/calendar.html - or here: www.stpl.ca/services.html. This is the quickest and easiest way to get service and program information.

New Honorary Priest at St. Paul's

Effective December, 2021, The Rev'd Canon Kim Beard has been appointed by Bishop Robertson as honorary priest at St. Paul's, L'Amoreaux. Canon Beard is the recently retired priest of St. Paul on the Hill, Pickering.

Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Booking

Those eligible can now book an appointment at a mass vaccination clinic on the provincial online vaccine booking system (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>).

Conditions for online reservations:

-80 years of age or older in 2021

-have a green photo health (OHIP) card

-have an email address (your own or someone helping you book your appointment)

-have an up-to-date web browser.

Those preferring to schedule an appointment by phone, call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY 1-866-797-0007). The line is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week. Information is available in more than 300 languages.

If St. Paul's can be of any help to you in this process, please let the office know.

Sunday School Every Sunday at 10.00 on Zoom

Check the church calendar for links and information: www.stpl.ca/calendar.html

S.P.Y. - St. Paul's Youth - Friday nights at 7 pm. Contact Sarah for more information: splcyoungministry@gmail.com. Check the online church calendar for link information: www.stpl.ca/calendar.html.

TAIBU

For several years now St. Paul's has benefitted from the services of TAIBU, a community service agency which provides health care and related services for Black populations across the Greater Toronto Area. Through the assistance of Kareem Marshall, St. Paul's began a reading club and Saturday exercise program. Right now TAIBU is providing special services for those touched by COVID. Services include education support, household support, homelessness support, income support, mental health services, access to food, masks, shields and sanitizer, social connections, and support using the internet and online devices. For more information, contact TAIBU: 416-803-8654, or Covid-19en@taibuchc.ca, or www.taibuchc.ca.

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Fridays, 7.00 p.m.

Join us Friday evenings for Bible study and prayer, right now in a 12-week study of the letters to Timothy and Titus. Study guides are available online (www.amazon.ca or www.parasource.com or www.christianbook.com) or may be ordered through Fr. Dean.

This Friday's study (April 9): 1 Timothy 4.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>

Telephone: 647-374 4685, or 647-558 0588; Meeting ID: 830 877 703

Smartphone Deal for Seniors, Families and Youth on Government Assistance.

Right now SPLC is recommending a \$25 smartphone deal from Telus for seniors on government assistance (including those with disabilities, families and youth). More information is available here: www.telus.com/en/about/seniors/application

Easter Food Drive - Join us in our annual Easter drive in support of the Agincourt Community Services Food Bank (www.agincourtcommunityservices.com). St. Paul's is eager to support ACSA and the needs of the food bank. As always, a monetary gift is the most practical and serves the exact needs of the food bank. Please indicate "ACSA Food Bank" on your envelope, cheque or e-transfer.

Thank you for your Faithful Gifts and Offerings - Your faithful support is as important now as it has ever been and through the generous and faithful support of its members, St. Paul's remains on track in 2021. Church Envelopes can be sent by mail. Members may wish to sign up for the Pre-Authorized Giving Program (contact the office). Or, gifts can be made online at our website through CanadaHelps here: www.stpl.ca/give.html. Members who use online banking may now also make E-transfers (contact the office).

Considering Pre-Authorized Giving

A growing number are now using the *Pre-Authorized Giving* program, now counting for nearly a quarter of our annual envelope target. It is easy, safe, cost effective (cheaper than mailing a cheque) and simple to adjust. If interested, contact the office or check the website for more information: www.stpl.ca/give.html. Thank you for keeping St. Paul's strong and ready to go when the doors re-open - made possible by your faithful and regular support in this irregular time.

Church Envelopes

During the month of April we will be distributing as many of the remaining weekly and monthly envelopes as possible. If you are willing to deliver envelopes to members in your area, we'd be grateful for your help. In the meantime, for those without this year's envelopes, gifts may be passed along in any envelope, but please ensure that it includes your full name and church envelope #. Contact the church office if in need of your church envelope #.

Contact - The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity and visiting in homes again, abiding by diocesan safety guidelines. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write. Website: www.stpl.ca; Church phone: 416-499-1545; Email: stpl@stpl.ca; Fr. Dean Mercer: deanmercer@hotmail.com; Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.