

Holy Trinity Anglican Church  
**Easter**  
April 4, 2021  
Father Michael Fleming



Celebrant: The parishes of the Diocese of Ottawa sit on the unceded territory of the Algonquin people.

All: **May we live together in harmony and peace.**

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

All: **The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: May the light of the Resurrection live within you

All: **And also within you.**

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest,

All: **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.**

Celebrant: 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 forever. Amen

The First Reading is from the book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 25, Verses 6 to 9

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines.  
On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever.  
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth.  
The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Psalm 118: 14-24

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.**

The second Reading is from the book of Acts, Chapter 10, Verses 34 to 43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "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.”

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ According to the Blessed St. John (John 20: 1-18)

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

### The Homily

On our trip to the Holy Land, we had just come from the ancient city of Capernaum, hometown of Peter and Andrew, James and John and were heading back towards Jerusalem after a long day of hiking, reading and reflecting. As the bus moseyed along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, our guide pointed and said, "Here was the village of Magdala, hometown of Mary. Nothing remains but some archeologists are thinking that there could be things of great importance lying beneath the surface. Time will tell" and indeed time did. In the last few years, much of the ancient town of Magdala has been recovered from the sands of time and the story of Mary has been revised given the discoveries.

I was disappointed that we did not stop for even a cursory look at the landscape, but as we continued along the lakeshore, I thought that here was the very vista which she would have seen every day until that moment when she met Jesus and decided to forsake all and follow him. Arriving back in Jerusalem, I secluded myself and wrote my reflection on Mary and what she meant to the Biblical narrative and her influence on me. Over the years, I have refined what I wrote then and it seemed appropriate for me to share the "final" draft with you on this Day of days.

### **THE NAMING AND THE CALLING**

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...  
she was formless and empty,  
with a great darkness looming, like a child waiting,  
waiting, waiting  
to be born.  
And the Spirit of God -  
Ruach-breath -  
was hovering,  
moving, probing, seeking, finding,  
enfolding, caressing, waiting...  
and God called and said,  
"Let there be Light, let it be"  
and it was!  
First created was a garden of wondrous life  
tended by loving hands of humanity.  
God said,  
"I will call you and name you for you are mine;  
I create you and love you.  
Tend my garden,*

*care for my world as I care for you”;*  
*and the waters of Life flowed.*  
*Soon came The Great Darkness,*  
*and the garden of life became*  
*as wilderness of death,*  
*bleached on the shores of the river Styx*  
*and the exile from paradise began.*  
*In the new beginning,*  
*God created a garden*  
*and to this place from Migdal*  
*He called her by name.*  
*Hearing the Voice in pre-light dawn,*  
*she left the room of refuge and memory,*  
*went through empty streets,*  
*ignoring merchants who laid their treasures at her feet*  
*in the hopes that she would do the same for them...*  
*intent upon her mission, her heartsong.*  
*Nothing...*  
*nothing would stop her*  
*from doing what HAD to be done*  
*so that it too*  
*would be accomplished*  
*like He had whispered from the cross.*  
*And so, through narrow lanes,*  
*past shuttered stalls and shuttered lives*  
*she moved like mist on the Galilee*  
*until she came to a garden.*  
*Filled with sorrow, racked with tears shed for a friend,*  
*bearing cloth and precious perfume,*  
*ointments of anointing,*  
*she HAD to do this,*  
*she HAD to be present*  
*to him,*  
*for him*  
*one last time*  
*as gift of love, of life.*  
*Stone*  
*gone...*  
*Grave*  
*empty!*  
*She fell like a wounded butterfly*  
*pierced by humanity’s cruelty and deceit.*  
*Turning to run*  
*(she knew not where or why or when or if)*  
*she found herself embraced*  
*in a Gardener’s Shadow.*  
*“Where?’ she asked.*

*The Shadow spoke,  
"Mary..."  
and in the one word  
it was accomplished.  
"I call you and name you as Mine.  
Do not try to hold me,  
for I am free  
as the universe.  
Go, tell them  
what your eyes have seen,  
your heart has felt.  
To you, I give the precious gift  
of being  
Word-Bearing  
Sacrament of Love."  
Leaving the garden'  
she ran,  
dropping her scarf  
and trampling her name  
Bitterness  
in the dust of the new dawn;  
forever now known  
as  
Dulcis Amica Dei -  
Sweet Friend of God,  
Apostle to apostles.  
Mary from Magdala,  
Migdal light,  
fool for Christ.  
So WE are called  
and named  
to bear the Word,  
to be sacrament,  
to plant the Seed  
so that  
God's garden may bloom again  
and again  
and again  
in glorious Hosannas  
and Alleluias.  
Shalom.*

May the blessed Light of Resurrection from an empty tomb penetrate all the darknesses of our lives and fill us with unspeakable hope, joy and love this Easter and every day of our lives.

**Amen**

## The Renewal of Our Baptismal Vows

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

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

Celebrant: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith.

We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

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

People: **I do.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **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.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: 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 he keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Prayers of the People

(In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, "Hear us, Lord of glory!")

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, 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, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, 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!**

We ask you to watch over all our parish family, remembering especially Zachariah, Marjorie, Cheryl, Jeanette, Roy, Emerson, Irene, Kirsten, and their families. May we, by example, draw others towards the glorious Light of the World.

In the Worldwide Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the Parish of March: St. Mary's, North March; St. John's, March; St. Paul's, Dunrobin, and their Priest, The Reverend Canon John Wilker-Blakley.



We pray for the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen, its groups and members, within the Diocese of Ottawa

### The Confession and Absolution

*Celebrant:* Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites us to his table.

Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Celebrant:* Most merciful God,

**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 neighbours 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.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord

**Amen**

### The Peace

*Leader:* The peace of our Lord be always with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* 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 through baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Amen

### The Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer 4

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of creation.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

But we turn against you, and betray your trust; and we turn against one another. Again and again you call us to return. Through the prophets and sages you reveal your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Saviour. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**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.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, 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."

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Gracious God, we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ, we proclaim his resurrection and ascension, and we look with expectation for his coming as Lord of all the nations. We who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring you these gifts. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your Church, that we who eat and drink at this holy table may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, creator of all.

**Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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.**

### Communion

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

All: **Now we are raised to new life.**

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

All: **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Celebrant: Live in us that we may live in you.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant: Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord wherever you may be, receive Christ; in communion with the saints and the gathering of God's people, unseen yet present with us now.

All: **We receive you Lord Jesus Christ, we welcome your presence in us and together proclaim your love for us; with our hearts, minds and souls and our strength; with the saints we worship you, with your angels we adore you, with your whole Church we proclaim your reign. Come to us, through many and make us one in you.**

**We are hungry with a spiritual hunger that cannot be entirely filled by other things, no matter how good they are. We want the bread, broken for us. We want the wine, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. We want these things – these good and holy things, and we cannot have them.**

**I ask you to feed me with the manna of your Holy Spirit and nourish me with your holy presence. I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from your love. Amen**

Celebrant: 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 One. Alleluia!

Glory to God

All: **whose power, 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.**

Celebrant: May the glory and promise of this joyous time bring peace and happiness to you and those whom you hold near and dear. May Christ our Risen Lord and Saviour be there at your side and bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide. And the peace of God which passes all our understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

### The Dismissal