

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

HOLY SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2018

Saint John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg

PART 1

- 1st PROPHECY GENESIS 1:1 – 2:2
The story of the first creation is read on the night that celebrates the inauguration of the new creation.
- 2nd PROPHECY GENESIS 6:5 – 8:22
The great flood. God's judgement took the form of a destructive flood, and His mercy was shown in saving a remnant with whom He made a new historical beginning.
- 3rd PROPHECY GENESIS 22:1 - 18
The testing of Abraham. The story portrays a miracle of faith: Abraham received back the promise after showing he had the faith to surrender his own son.
- 4th PROPHECY EXODUS 14:15 – 15:1
This is the most important reading in the whole series. The crossing of the Red Sea is the supreme type of Jesus' death and resurrection, and of our dying and rising again with Him in the waters of Holy Baptism.

- 5th PROPHECY ISAIAH 54:4 – 14
Second Isaiah delivered his prophecies at the dawn of Israel's return from the exile in Babylon. Jesus' death and resurrection are prefigured in the return from Babylonian captivity and the exodus from Egyptian bondage.
- 6th PROPHECY ISAIAH 55:1 – 11
This reading is an invitation to the heavenly banquet anticipated in the Holy Eucharist.
"Come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk."
- 7th PROPHECY BARUCH 3:9 – 4:4
Wisdom, found by God, was given to Israel and is the law.
- 8th PROPHECY EZEKIEL 37:1 – 14
The vision of the valley of dry bones. The bones are the exiles who have no more hope of resuscitating the kingdom of Israel than of putting flesh on a skeleton and calling it to life.
- 9th PROPHECY EXODUS 12:1 – 13
The feast of Passover. The Israelite Passover provided the background for the Christian feast of the Holy Eucharist.

10th PROPHECY JONAH 3:1 – 10
Jonah's second call to preach to Ninevah. Jonah, reluctantly and grudgingly obeys, and results in the wholesale conversion of the heathen city.

11th PROPHECY ISAIAH 4:2 – 6
Jerusalem's restoration.

12th PROPHECY DANIEL 3:1 – 30
The three youths in the fiery furnace. A story of how martyrdom is preferable to apostasy.



PART 2

The service of light with the Easter proclamation. The Easter proclamation focuses upon the three main themes of the vigil service:

- The deliverance of Israel in the Exodus.
- The baptismal deliverance of the new Israel.
- The resurrection of Christ Jesus.

PART 3

The renewal of our Baptismal vows.