

The Great Vigil of Easter

April 3, 2021

8:00 p.m.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Presider addresses the people

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

The Presider says the following prayer, first saying

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is lighted from the newly kindled fire, following which the Presider leads the acclamation, saying three times

Presider The light of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Person appointed sings the Exsultet

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Cantor The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Cantor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Cantor

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave. How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God. Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Liturgy of the Word

The Presider introduces the Scripture readings with these or similar words

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The Story of Creation

from Genesis 1

Creation, a poem by James Weldon Johnson, is shared.

Storyteller And that's how it happened.

People **God is so good!**

Psalm 136:1, 4-9, 25-26

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 4 Who only does great wonders, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 5 Who by wisdom made the heavens, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 6 Who spread out the earth upon the waters, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 7 Who created great lights, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 8 The sun to rule the day, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 25 Who gives food to all creatures, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Flood

Genesis 7,8,9

The story of Noah and the Flood is shared.

Storyteller And that's how it happened.

People **God is so good!**

Psalm 46:1-4, 9

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;**
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 **The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

From Exodus 14 and 15

The story of the Children of Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea is shared.

Storyteller And that's how it happened.

People **God is so good!**

From Canticle 8

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

**The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.**

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

**Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?**

With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The valley of dry bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, >>> suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: >>> Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel.

They say, '**Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.**'

Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Storyteller And that's how it happened.

People **God is so good!**

Psalm 30:1-5, 13

- 1 I will exalt you, O LORD,
because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 **O LORD my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.**
- 3 You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
- 4 **Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; *
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.**
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
his favor for a lifetime.
- 13 **Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.**

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Gathering of God's People

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The promise of God gathering God's people is shared.

Storyteller And that's how it happened.

People **God is so good!**

Psalm 126

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, ***
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 **The LORD has done great things for us, ***
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 **Those who sowed with tears ***
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Eucharist

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The story of the empty tomb from the gospel of Mark is told

Gospeler And that's how it happened.
People **God is so good!**

The Easter Sermon of St John Chrysostom

The Rev. Mandy Brady

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Presider addresses the people with these words

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
People I do.

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?
People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Presider 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.

Presider 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.

Presider 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.

Presider 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.

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People I will, with God's help.

Presider 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.

The Presider concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers for the Faithful

The Presider then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for renewal for ourselves.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions while the Presider asperges the People

Leader Deliver us, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open *our hearts* to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill *us* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep *us* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach *us* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send *us* into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring *us* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

The Presider says

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Presider The Lord 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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Presider and People

**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.

Then the Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Presider

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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Distribution

Please stay at your seat. The sacrament will be brought to you.

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Easter Blessing

BOS 26

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ, Alleluia! Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!