



*The Great Vigil of Easter
with Holy Baptism*

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 31, 2018

8:00 P.M.

THE SERVICE BEGINS IN THE WELCOME AREA

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant may address the people in these or similar words

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 Celebrant says

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 then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon (the Celebrant if there is no deacon) bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying

Celebrant The light of Christ.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

If candles have been distributed to members of the congregation, they are lighted from the Paschal Candle at this time. Other candles and lamps in the church, except for those at the Altar, may also be lighted.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

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 his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

Answer ***And also with you.***

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Answer ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

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

Celebrant

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

Genesis 1 — The Creation ¹

Genesis 6:9 — Noah's Ark²

Exodus 7-15 — Let My People Go³

Ezekiel 37:1-14 — Valley of the Dry Bones⁴

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Celebrant says

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents

I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

^{1,2,3} *Children of God Storybook Bible by Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

⁴ *Bible Stories of the 40 Days; Melissa Musick Nussbaum; Illustrations by Judy Jarrett*

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question *Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?*

Answer ***I renounce them.***

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer ***I renounce them.***

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer ***I renounce them.***

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer ***I do.***

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer ***I do.***

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer ***I do.***

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People ***We will.***

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

BAPTISMAL COVENANT

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 neighbor 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.***

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

The Celebrant then says

Let us now pray for those who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

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

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

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

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

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

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. ***Amen***

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it 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 bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

THE BAPTISM

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who then pours water upon the candidate, saying
N, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

Amen.

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying

*N, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.***

The newly baptized is given a candle lighted from the Paschal candle.

The Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

AT THE EUCHARIST

The candles at the Altar may now be lighted from the Paschal Candle

Priest Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

Priest Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

Priest Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

Gloria in excelsis (ring bells)

*Glory to God in the highest,
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 The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant

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.***

Reader A Reading from Romans

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 114

Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *

the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

Judah became God's sanctuary *

and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; *

Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, *

and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *

O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *

you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *

and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Gospel Luke 24 & John 20 — Jesus Is Alive ¹

Reflection

The Rev. Cathy Carpenter

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

The Lord be with you.

*People **And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

*People **We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

The Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

Celebrant 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.

The people stand or kneel.

¹ *Children of God Storybook Bible by Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

The Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

***We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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

People and Celebrant

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

Celebrant and People

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized persons regardless of denomination, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would like to receive communion but cannot approach the altar rail, please notify an usher and it will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available, simply tell the celebrant “gluten-free”.

Post Communion Prayer

The Celebrant says

Let us pray

Celebrant 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.***

Blessing for Easter

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.***

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*



BAPTISMS THIS EVENING

We welcome Keller Thomas & Sawyer Lee and Carter Hayes & Lacey Leigh into the household of God as they are baptized this evening.

Keller & Sawyer are the children of Valerie & Thomas Manzo, their Godparents are Jeffrey Manzo & Sandra Kratz.

Carter & Lacy are the children of Erica & Trevor Frey, their Godparents are T.J. Frey & Jessica Korkue.

SERVING THIS EVENING

Celebrant: The Rev. Cathy Carpenter
Organist: Kristina Vernyi
EM: Joy Pople
Lector: Doug Claprood
Usher: Doug Claprood
Altar Guild Rosemary Coyne, Terry Taranto

FESTAL EASTER SERVICES

Easter Services with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO GRACE

We welcome all newcomers and visitors and we ask that you complete a card from pews or welcome table or sign our newcomer book (located in the front of the building). After the service please join us in the Welcome Area for coffee and hospitality. We are glad that you are here with us today.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES for the hearing impaired are available from the ushers.

GRACE'S MISSION STATEMENT

*To be a visible sign of Christ's love, seeking
and serving Christ in all persons.*



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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