

# *The Great Vigil of Easter*

April 11, 2020 - 8:00 P.M.



## 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*

Celebrant: 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.

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.*

Celebrant: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

## 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.*

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 <sup>1</sup>

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Celebrant: 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.

Genesis 6:9 — **Noah's Ark** <sup>2</sup>

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Celebrant: 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.

Genesis 22:1-18 — **Don't Hurt Isaac** <sup>3</sup>

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Celebrant: God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exodus 7-15 — **Let My People Go** <sup>4</sup>

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Celebrant: 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.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 — Valley of the Dry Bones <sup>5</sup>

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Celebrant: 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.

#### RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Celebrant: 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.

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.**

Celebrant: 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.

## THE GREAT ALLELUIA

S 70

*After the Epistle, this Alleluia is traditionally sung three times by the Celebrant or by a Cantor, at successively higher pitches (one whole tone each time), the Congregation repeating it each time.*



Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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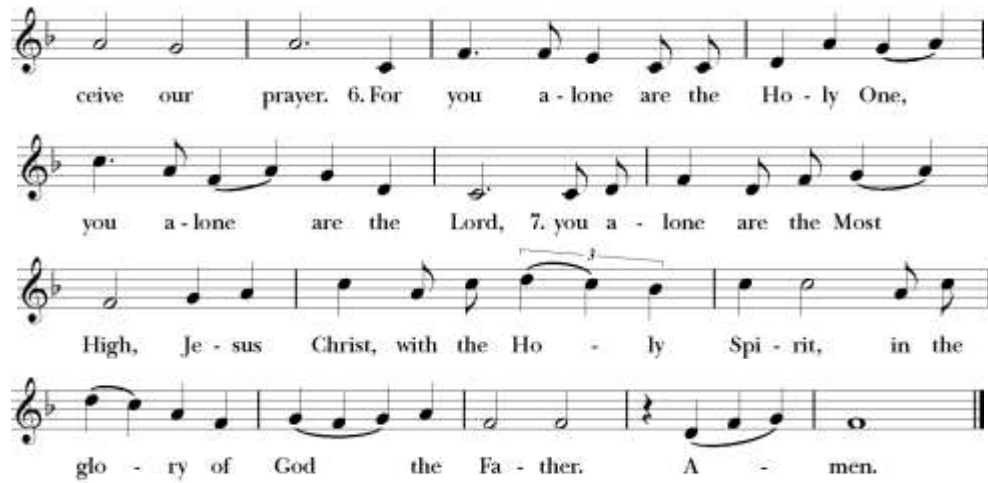
Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

S 280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



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.*

EPISTLE

Teaching and Preaching <sup>6</sup> James 1-3; Timothy 4:6-21; 2 Timothy; and Philipians 2:19-23

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

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 marvelous in our eyes.  
On this day the Lord has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

GOSPEL Luke 24 & John 20 — Jesus is Alive <sup>7</sup>

REFLECTION

The Rev. Cathy Carpenter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.  
Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.  
Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.  
Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.  
Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.  
We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

PEACE *(all stand)*  
Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People: And also with you.

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.

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.*

Hymn

*Jesus Christ is risen today*

*Hymnal #207*

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!

DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.



Endnotes

- 1 *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
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- 3 *Bible Stories of the 40 Days*; Melissa Musick Nussbaum; Illustrations by Judy Jarrett
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- 5 *Bible Stories of the 40 Days*; Melissa Musick Nussbaum; Illustrations by Judy Jarrett
- 6 *The Path Family Storybook* by Lindsay Hardin Freeman & Melody Wilson Shobe; Illustrations by Roger Speer
- 7 *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu