



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## EASTER VIGIL Liturgy for Dispersed People

April 11, 2020

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*In this liturgy, the music may be either: (a) omitted; (b) said; or (c) played, by clicking the name of each piece. Embedded links will take you to YouTube and recordings of those pieces (please forgive any ads that may pop up). The hymn music is provided so that you may sing along.*

### ANTHEM

[O nata lux](#)

*(The Sixteen Choir, conducted by Harry Christophers)*

O nata lux de lumine  
Jesu redemptor saeculi  
dignare clemens supplicum  
laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi  
dignatus es pro perditis  
nos membra confer effici  
tui beati corporis.

O Light born of Light,  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
with loving-kindness deign to receive  
suppliant praise and prayer.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh  
for the sake of the lost,  
grant us to be members  
of thy blessed body.

Words: 10th-century hymn    Music: Thomas Tallis (c1505–1585)

### THE PASCHAL LIGHT

*The liturgy begins with the lighting of a candle:*

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 linger in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord in which, by virtue of our baptism into his death, into the hope of his resurrection, we celebrate the New Life we have received by his Mercy, awaiting the time when we may gather again around your holy altar.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that 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 EXSULTET

[The Exsultet](#)

*(sung by Noah Horn)*

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.

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 forebears, 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.

Holy Father, accept our living sacrifice of this candle in your honor. May Christ, the light of  
the world, bring us healing. May Christ, your light in us, drive away darkness and fear. May  
Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find our faith ever burning, our love of  
mercy and justice ever afire—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE SALVATION HISTORY

### THE STORY OF CREATION

GENESIS 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless  
void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the  
face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw  
that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light  
Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the  
first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the  
waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under  
the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome  
Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let  
the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that  
were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let  
the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth  
that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants

yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

*Silence may be kept.*

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.**

### **ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA**

EXODUS 14:10-31; 15:20-21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

*Silence may be kept.*

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 GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

*Silence may be kept.*

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 tranquillity 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.**

### **EASTER PROCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

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

HYMN

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more (296, *The Hymnal 1982*)  
*(First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska)*

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows \_\_\_\_\_

Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold; \_\_\_\_\_  
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life. \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God. \_\_\_\_\_  
 as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood. \_\_\_\_\_

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy. \_\_\_\_\_  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ. \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le -  
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One. \_\_\_\_\_  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing: \_\_\_\_\_

*Final Ending*

lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Words: John Brownlow Geyer (b. 1932), alt.  
 Music: *Engelberg*, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

10 10 10 with Alleluia

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**COLLECT FOR EASTER**

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**

ROMANS 6:3-11

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.

## **GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

## **THE PRAYERS**

### **INTERCESSIONS**

*Offer prayers for:*

- *The Universal Church, its members, and its mission*
- *The Nation and all in authority*
- *The welfare of the world*
- *The concerns of the local community*
- *Those who suffer and those in any trouble*
- *The departed*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathering these prayers in the words that Jesus taught ...

*You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.*

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR EASTER

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## HYMN

[Alleluia! The strife is o'er, the battle done](#) (208, *The Hymnal 1982*)  
(Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.)

*Antiphon (at the beginning)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Ped.*

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 \*3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es  
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from  
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly  
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our  
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his  
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

*Antiphon (at the end)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Ped.*

Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.  
 Music: *Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. and arr. William Henry Monk (1826-1889)

Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



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