

# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

April 15, 2017

7:00 P.M.

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The Great Vigil of Easter is the liturgy intended as the first (and arguably, the primary) celebration of Easter in the *Book of Common Prayer*. The service begins in darkness, sometime between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter, and consists of four parts: The Service of Light (kindling of new fire, lighting the Paschal Candle, the Exsultet); The Service of Lessons (readings from the Hebrew Scriptures interspersed with psalms, canticles, and prayers); Christian Initiation (Holy Baptism) or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows; and the Eucharist. Through this liturgy, the BCP recovers an ancient practice of keeping the Easter feast. Believers would gather in the hours of darkness ending at dawn on Easter to hear scripture and offer prayer. This night-long service of prayerful watching anticipated the baptisms that would come at first light and the Easter Eucharist. Easter was the primary baptismal occasion for the early church to the practical exclusion of all others. This practice linked the meanings of Christ's dying and rising to the understanding of baptism.

[From An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church]

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## THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

*In the darkness, fire is kindled, and then the Presider says:*

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.

*Presider*

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 lit from the newly kindled fire. The candle bearer and cantor lead the procession to the Chancel, pausing three times while the cantor sings:

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response is sung successively a step higher.

The Peoples' candles are lit from the Paschal Candle, and the Paschal Candle is placed in its stand. The cantor then sings the Exsultet.

## 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 ev-er and ev - er. A - men.

The Lord be with you.

And al - so with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.



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

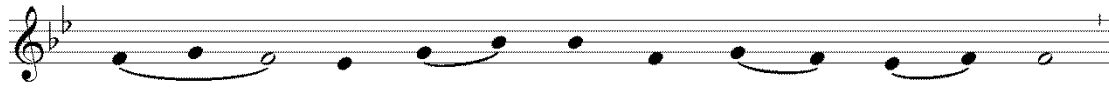
from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN (*sung by all*)

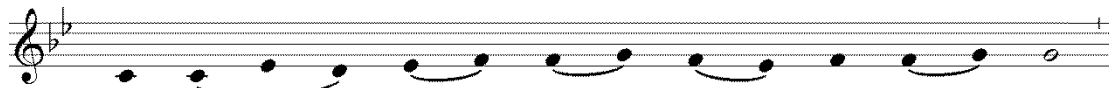
O blest Creator, source of light  
Hymn 27 (*Lucis creator optime*)



1 O blest Cre - a - tor, source of light,  
2 You joined the morn and eve - ning ray;  
3 Lest we, be - set by doubt and strife,  
4 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, help us rise  
5 De - fend us, Fa - ther, through the night,



1 you gave the day with splen - dor bright,  
2 you found it good and called it 'day.'  
3 for - get your bless - ed gift of life,  
4 and strive to gain the heaven - ly prize;  
5 and with your Son, and Spi - rit bright—



1 when on the new and liv - ing earth  
2 But now the threat - ening dark - ness nears—  
3 and an - guished and in mind dis - tressed,  
4 for you a - lone can make us strong  
5 the Tri - ni - ty whom we a - dore—



1 you brought all things to glo - rious birth.  
2 we pray you, Fa - ther, calm our fears.  
3 be crushed by guilt, by sin op - pressed.  
4 to turn from sin and cease from wrong.  
5 be with us now and ev - er - more.

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 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

The Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its

mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

In the six-hundred-first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 46:1-3, 5-7**

*Deus noster refugium*

*[The cantor sing the refrain once, then all repeat. Then the choir sings the verses, and all repeat the refrain as marked.]*



- 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.

**REFRAIN**

- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \*  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

**REFRAIN**

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.**

### **ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC**

GENESIS 22:1-18

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 16**

*Conserva me, Domine*

**REFRAIN**

Pro - tect me, O God, for I take re - fuge in you.

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*  
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, \*  
upon those who are noble among the people. **REFRAIN**
- 3 But those who run after other gods \*  
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, \*  
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips. **REFRAIN**
- 5 O Lord, YOU are my portion and my cup; \*  
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage. **REFRAIN**
- 7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; \*  
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me; \*  
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall. **REFRAIN**



- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, \*  
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; \*  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

**REFRAIN**

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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.**

### **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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## CANTICLE 8: THE SONG OF MOSES

*Cantemus Domino*

### CANTOR

1. I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and up - lift - ed;

### ALL

the horse and its rider has he hurled in - to the sea. 2. The Lord is my

strength and my re - fuge; the Lord has be - come my Sa - vior.

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

will ex - alt him. 4. The Lord is a might - y war - rior;

Yah - weh is his Name. 5. The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has

he hurled in - to the sea; the finest of those who bear armor have been

drowned in the Red Sea. 6. The fathomless deep has o - ver - whelmed them;

they sank into the depths like a stone.

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.**

### **SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL**

ISAIAH 55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** (*sung by the choir*)

Sicut cervus

G.P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.*

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks: so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

*Text: Psalm 42:1*

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; 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.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 30:1-6, 12-13**

*Exaltabo te, Domine*

**REFRAIN**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.

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.

**REFRAIN**

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.

6 Weeping may spend the night, \*  
but joy comes in the morning.

**REFRAIN**

12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; \*  
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; \*  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

**REFRAIN**

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.**

*All stand.*

## THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*Presider*

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.**

Presider: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

*Presider*

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 FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

Presider: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

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

*The organs are sounded, and the lights are raised. The people extinguish their candles and ring their bells.*

### HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymnal 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 - mighty 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 -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: 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.**

*All are seated.*

## THE 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.

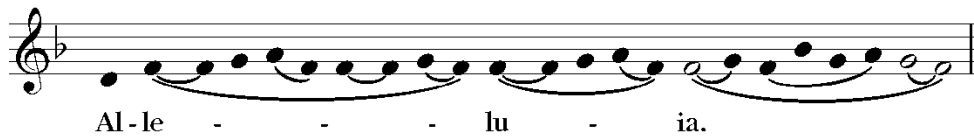
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

## THE GREAT ALLELUIA

*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.*



## THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 28:1-10

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*All are seated.*

## THE SERMON

*After the Sermon, there follows a short period of silent reflection. Then all stand.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Priest*

Our Savior is resurrected from the dead, bringing renewal for Christians across the Earth. With joyful gratitude, we pray for the church and for the world, saying "Risen Christ, hear our prayer."



*Intercessor*

We pray for your universal church: guide your ministers as they honor the traditions of the past, tend the cares of the present, and build the communities of the future. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the world: plant wisdom and compassion in their hearts, and teach them to sow seeds of righteousness and mercy. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your wondrous creation: continue to reveal its bountiful complexity and fragile beauty, and inspire us to safeguard these gifts for all posterity. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this holy gathering of the faithful: strengthen us to continue in the way of the apostles, proclaim the Good News of God in Christ, seek and serve Christ in all persons, and strive for justice and peace among all people. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are discerning God's call to them during , especially our catechumens Kathryn and Sara. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose lives are tainted by violence: give strength and courage to all sufferers, and turn the hearts of all perpetrators. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in any need or trouble: feed the hungry, tend the sick, relieve the weary, bless the dying, and soothe the suffering. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died: give them Christ's triumph over death, and bring them into your perpetual light. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all that we now name before you, either silently or aloud.

*Presider*

Risen Christ, hear the prayers offered by these your gathered people; instill in our hearts the assurance of your resurrected life, that we may follow your Way in faith, hope, joy, and love; in the name of the one Holy and undivided Trinity. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

**Presider:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*The People greet one another with a sign of peace, and then are seated for brief announcements.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**      Ye choirs of new Jerusalem      C. V. Stanford (1852-1924)

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
Your sweetest notes employ,  
The Paschal victory to hymn  
In strains of holy joy.

For Judah's Lion bursts His chains,  
Crushing the serpent's head;  
And cries aloud through death's domains  
To wake th'imprison'd dead.

Devouring depths of hell  
 Their prey at His command restore;  
 His ransom'd hosts pursue their way  
 Where Jesus goes before.

While we, His soldiers, praise our King,  
 His mercy we implore,  
 Within His palace bright to bring  
 And keep us evermore.

Triumphant in His glory now  
 To Him all power is given;  
 To Him in one communion bow  
 All saints in earth and heaven.

All glory to the Father be,  
 All glory to the Son,  
 All glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
 While endless ages run.  
 Alleluia! Amen.

*Text: Fulbert of Chartres (952-1028), trans. Robert Campbell*

*During the singing of **Surrexit Christus**, the Ushers carry the gifts forward. The People follow and encircle the altar. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Small children may sit with a caregiver on the floor in front of the altar. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If you are unable to stand, you may sit in one of the chairs arranged near the altar, move to the front row of pews, or remain where you are.*

## AT THE PROCESSION TO THE ALTAR

## Surrexit Christus (*Taizé*)

*p* *f*

O Sur - re - xit Chri - stus, al - le - lu - ia!

*p* *f*

O Can - ta - te Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia!

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D

*Celebrant* *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

*Presider*

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 forever.

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 sing:

**SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS**

Hymnal S-125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Presider*

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.

*Presider and People*

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

*Presider*

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 and matriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and 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, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

*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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

### FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-155

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is  
sac - ri - ficed for us; There-fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Presider*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. [Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.]

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Please proceed to the most conveniently located station to receive communion, and then return to your seat via a side aisle. Gluten-free bread is available at any station. Non-alcoholic wine is available from the server at the center of the altar. To receive a blessing instead of communion, approach the priest with your arms crossed over your chest.*

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

Now the green blade riseth

Traditional  
arr. Simon Lindley (b. 1948)

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, love whom men had slain,  
Thinking that never he would wake again.  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green,

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain.  
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Thy touch can call us back to life again;  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

*Text: J.M.C. Crum (1872-1958)*

*After all have received communion, the people remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider*

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 PASCHAL BLESSING

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 forever. **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 forever. **Amen.**

*During the final hymn, the people ring their bells in Paschal jubilation.*

## FINAL HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today  
Hymn 207 (Easter Hymn)

*Descant*

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

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

## VOLUNTARY

Fantasy on 'Easter Hymn'

William H. Harris (1883-1973)



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