

# THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

April 3, 2021 8 pm

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Tonight, Christians all over the world will be lighting fires and telling the story of God's connection to the people as we await the mystery of the risen Christ. Join us in fellowship wherever you may be in hopeful anticipation.

This liturgy is adapted for you and your home use from the Book of Common Prayer by Dr. James Farwell, the Rev. Josephine Robertson, the Rev. Joseph Peters-Matthews, and the Rev. Drew Downs.

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## The Lighting of New Fire

*One* Beloved 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 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.

Let us pray.

O God, 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.

*People* **Amen.**

### The Exsultet

*BCP, p. 286*

*Cantor* 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.  
The Lord be with you.

*All*           **And also with you.**

*Cantor*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*           **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

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

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

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

Holy Father, accept our living sacrifice of this candle in your honor,  
                  the work of the bees your creatures.

May Christ, the light of the world, bring us healing.

May Christ, your light in us, drive away all darkness.

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.

*All*           **Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

*One*           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.

**First Lesson**—The story of Creation

*Genesis 1:1-2:4a*

**Collect**

Let us pray.   *(Silence)*

O God, who wonderfully created, and wonderfully restores, 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.**

## Second Lesson—Israel’s deliverance at the Red Sea

*Exodus 14:10-15:1*

Hymn *When Israel was in Egypt’s land*

Hymnal 648, stanzas 1 & 2

When Israel was in Egypt’s land, let my people go:  
oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.

**Refrain** Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land;  
tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.

The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go;  
to lead the children of Israel through, let my people go.

**Refrain** Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land;  
tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.

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## Collect

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 people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may discover that they are numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Third Lesson—A new heart and a new spirit

*Ezekiel 36:24-28*

Hymn *As panting deer desire the waterbrooks*

WLP 727

As panting deer desire the waterbrooks when wandering in a dry and desert place,  
so yearns my thirsty soul for you, O God, and longs at last to see you face to face.

Both day and night my tears have been my food, while scoffers taunt me,  
“Where is your God now?”

My soul dissolves as I recall the throng whose pilgrim hymns I led to Zion’s brow.

Why are you heavy hearted, O my soul? And why are you so mired in deep discord?

Still put your hope and trust in God alone, whom I will praise,  
my Savior and my Lord.

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## Collect

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Fourth Lesson—The valley of dry bones

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

## Collect

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.**

## Fifth Lesson—The gathering of God's people

*Zephaniah 3:12-20*

## Collect

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in 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.**

## Proclaim the Resurrection

*Raise the lights and ring the bells.*

*One* Alleluia, Christ is risen!

*All* **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*All*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Passover has been sacri-ficed for us; \*  
therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

**ALLELUIA**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*  
death no longer has do-min-ion over him.  
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*  
but the life he lives, he lives to God.  
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALLELUIA**

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since by a man came death, \*  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, \*  
so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

**ALLELUIA 2 times**

## The Collect of the Day

*One* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*One* Let us pray.

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.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Gospel

*Mark 16:1-8*

*One* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*One* The Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

The Rev. Drew Downs

## Renewal of Baptismal Vows

*One* 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.

*One* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil  
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*All* **I do.**

*One* Do you believe in God the Father?

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

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

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,  
repent and return to the Lord?

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

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

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

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

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

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,  
and respect the dignity of every human being?

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

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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*One* Filled with joy on this queen of feasts, let us offer prayers to God who fills the  
darkness of the world with the light of Christ.

For the holy churches of God, Jennifer our bishop, priests and deacons,  
this holy gathering, and all the holy people of God.

*All* **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For all those in need, the suffering and the oppressed, immigrants and  
prisoners, the dying and the dead.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For ourselves, our families, and those we love.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

That our Savior may grant us triumph over the prince of darkness and all evil  
powers.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

That Christ may fill us with the joy and happiness of his holy resurrection.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

That we may enter the chamber of the divine wedding feast and rejoice without limit with the angels and saints.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Remembering the blessed Virgin Mary, St. Stephen, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Lord.**

*One* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Hear our prayers which we offer in the hope of eternal glory, and grant that we who have received new life in baptism may live for ever in the joy of the resurrection. Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

*All* **Amen.**

*One* 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.

*All* **Amen.**

*One* Alleluia! Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us!

*All* **Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

*One* When we share our bread with one another.

*All* **The Lamb of God will make us one.**

### **The Peace**

*One* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

**Hymn 187** *next page*



1 Through the Red Sea brought at last, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Like the cloud that o - ver - head, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 In that cloud and in that sea, Al - le - lu - ia!



E - gypt's chains be - hind we cast, Al - le - lu - ia! Deep and wide  
 through the bil - lows Is - rael led, Al - le - lu - ia! by his tomb  
 bur - ied and bap - tized were we, Al - le - lu - ia! Earth - ly night



flows the tide sev - ering us from bond - age past, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ makes room, souls re - stor - ing from the dead, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 brought us light which is ours e - ter - nal - ly, Al - le - lu - ia!

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