

# The Great Vigil of Easter

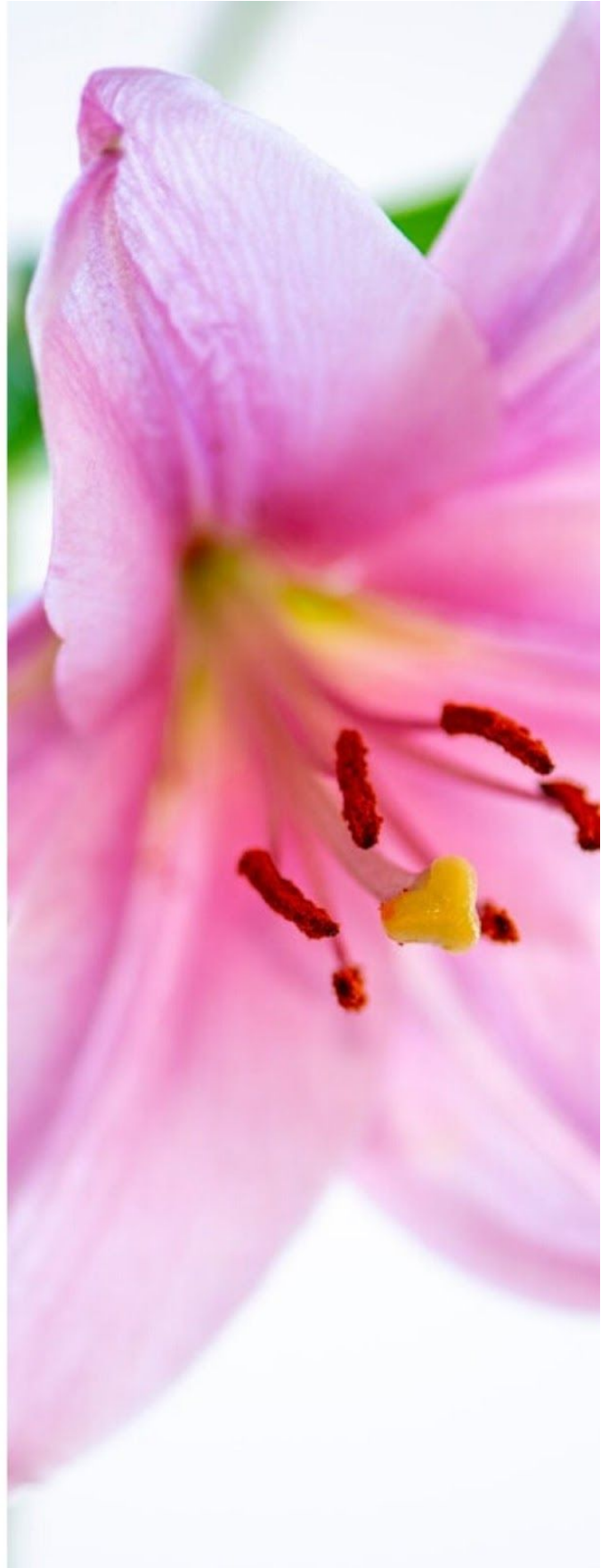
---

Order of Worship  
*Easter 2020*

---

St. Stephen's Episcopal  
Church  
215 N. 7th Street  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807

---



---

# THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

## 2020

---

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.

---

### 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*

### 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*

*Music by Rory Cooney*

*We will sing this song several times during the reading:  
Cantor sings each phrase — All repeat each phrase*

Sing a song of freedom!  
God has won the victory.  
Horse and chariot are cast into the sea.

*Final time:*

*Horse and chariot,  
fear and loneliness,  
death and emptiness —  
horse and chariot are cast into the sea.*

*Horse and chariot,  
hate and prejudice,  
chains and slavery —  
horse and chariot are cast into the sea.*

## **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**—Salvation freely offered to all

*Isaiah 55:1-11*

## **Collect**

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.**

# Proclaim the Resurrection

*Raise the lights and ring the bells.*

One Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed 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 dominion 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.

## Hymn

187



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!

## 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

*Deacon* A reading from 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 worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## 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.**



## *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*

215 North Seventh Street  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807-3103

812-232-5165

[www.ststephensth.org](http://www.ststephensth.org)

*Worship times: Sunday at 8 & 10 am | Thursday at 12 Noon*