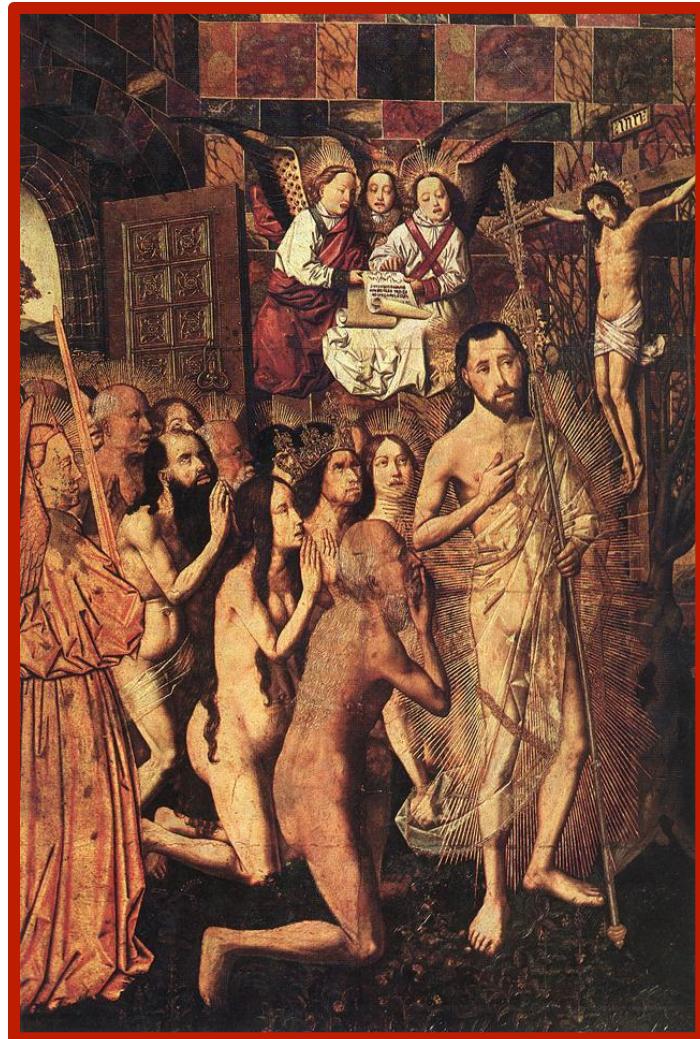


S. Stephen's Church
In Providence

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER



Missa I (Lux et origo)
Plainchant

3 APRIL 2021
7:00 pm

THE BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

Please stand when directed to do so. The New Fire is kindled in the darkness.
The Celebrant then addresses the people and blesses the New Fire.

THE PREPARATION AND LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Assisting Priest brings the Paschal candle to the Celebrant, who marks a cross on it. He then traces the Greek letter alpha above the cross, the letter omega below, and the numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross. When the cross and other marks have been made, the celebrant inserts five grains of incense in the candle. The celebrant then lights the candle from the New Fire.

THE PROCESSION

The Priest, bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel,
pausing three times and singing:

Priest The Light of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Candles held by the congregation are lighted during the procession.

THE EXSULTET

All stand holding lighted candles while the Cantor sings the following:

Rejoice now, all ye heavenly legions of Angels: all high things that pass understanding: for the King that cometh with victory, let the trumpet proclaim salvation.

Sing with joy, O earth, illumed with this celestial radiancy: and enlightened by the eternal God, thy glory, believe and know that thou hast put away the darkness of all mankind.

So likewise let our Mother, his holy Church, welcome the bright beams of light shed upon her: and let his holy courts be filled with the praise of his people.

I pray and beseech you therefore, dearly beloved, that all ye who here are present seeking this heavenly brightness make your supplication with me to the Almighty, that he would show forth his mercy toward me. That he who in my unworthiness numbered me among his ministers and called me to do him service, so may also vouchsafe to lighten my darkness, making me meet to praise this gift of fire with thankfulness. Through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer: who liveth and reigneth with him and the Holy Ghost, ever one God world without end. **Amen.**

Cantor The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Cantor Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Cantor Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet and right, that with the service of our lips we should glorify and should praise with heart and soul God the invisible and almighty, and likewise his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who paid for us to the eternal Father the debt of Adam's transgression: and with his dear blood wiped away the reproach of our former offenses.

The night is come, wherein our fathers, the children of Israel, were led forth out of Egypt; thou dividedst the sea, and madest them to pass over as on dry land.

The night is come, whereby all that believe in Christ upon the face of all earth, delivered from this naughty world and out of the shadow of death, are renewed unto grace, and are made partakers of eternal life. The night is come, wherein the bonds of death were loosed, and Christ harrowing hell rose again in triumph.

For wherefore should man be born into this world, save that being born he might be redeemed? How wonderful then, O God, is thy loving-kindness unto us thy children! Behold, what manner of love he hath bestowed upon us: who to redeem a servant, delivered up his only Son!

O wonderful providence of Adam's transgression, that by such a death sin might be done away! O blessed iniquity, for whose redemption such a price was paid by such a Savior; O night verily blessed, to thee alone that time and that hour were made manifest, when our Savior Christ rose again from death unto life! The night is come, whereof David said: Behold, the night is as clear as the day: Then shall my night be turned into day.

The mystery therefore of this most holy night putteth to flight the deeds of darkness, purgeth away sin: restoreth innocence to the fallen, and gladness unto them that mourn: casteth out hatred. bringeth peace to all mankind, and boweth down mighty princes.

Therefore in this thy favorable time, accept, O holy Father, the evening sacrifice of this lighted candle, which as at this time thy holy Church maketh before thee, and offereth to thee by the hands of thy servants, the work, of the bees thy creatures. Ye hear, brethren, the meaning of this pillar we have set up, whereunto in God's honor the bright flame of fire doth set light. Which though it be never so much divided, yet knoweth not variableness nor loseth aught of its splendor. For the wax that melteth doth but feed the flame, for thereunto have the creatures of God's hand brought it forth, that it should give light in darkness.

O night verily blessed, wherein heaven and earth are joined, and mankind partaketh with the Godhead!

We pray thee therefore, O most merciful: that this candle which we have lighted and consecrated before thee in thy own name, may continue to shine forth without ceasing, and may vanquish all the shades of darkness. That being accepted before thee as a sweet savor, it may be numbered with the lights that thou hast kindled. May the day-star find it burning when he dawndeth into day: the day-star that riseth, and knoweth not his going down: but coming forth from the places of darkness gladly giveth forth light unto all creation.

Through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord: Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE PROPHECIES

The Celebrant says

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 READING – The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:4a (Please be seated)

Psalm 136 - v. 1-9, 23-36, Confitemini (Please remain seated) Tone III

Collect (Please stand)

Let us pray: O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SECOND READING – The Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 (Please be seated)

Collect (Please stand)

Let us pray: Almighty God, who hast placed in the skies the sign of thy covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to thee our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THIRD READING – Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31 (Please be seated)

Canticle – Cantemus Domino (Please remain seated)

Tone VIII

Collect (Please stand)

Let us pray: O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, and who didst once deliver by the power of thy mighty arm thy 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.**

FOURTH READING – God’s Presence in a Renewed Israel

Isaiah 4:2-6 (Please be seated)

Collect (Please stand)

Let us pray. O God, who by the mouth of thy holy Prophets hast manifested thyself before all the children of the Church, to be in all places of thy dominion, to be the sower of good seed and the husbandman of thine elect branches: Grant unto thy peoples, that, the vineyard of thy planting and the harvest of thy sowing being purged of all thorns and briars, they may be made to bring forth worthy fruit in abundance; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIFTH READING – A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36: 24-28 (Please be seated)

Collect (Please stand)

Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery hast 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.**

SIXTH READING – The Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Please be seated)

Psalm 143 - Domine, exaudi (Please remain seated)

Tone VII

Collect (Please stand)

Let us pray: Almighty God, who by the Passover of thy Son hast brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by thy Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim thee to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SEVENTH READING – The Gathering of God’s People

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Please be seated)

Collect (Please stand)

Let us pray: O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on thy whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of thy providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection in him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE FONT AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Please remain standing.

THE LITANY OF THE SAINTS I (sung by the choir)

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.**

Christe eleison. **Christe eleison.**

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.**

O Christ, hear us. **O Christ, graciously hear us.**

O God the Father of heaven: **Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: **Have mercy upon us.**

O God, the Holy Ghost: **Have mercy upon us.**

Holy Trinity, One God: **Have mercy upon us.**

Holy Mary: **Pray for us.**

Holy Mother of God: **Pray for us.**

Holy Virgin of Virgins: **Pray for us.**

(The same response is made until the following:)

Holy Anastasia: **Pray for us.**

All ye holy Virgins and Widows: **Pray for us.**

All ye Holy, Righteous, and Elect of God: **Intercede for us.**

THE BLESSING OF THE FONT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

We give thee thanks, Almighty God, for the gift of water, over which thy Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation; through which thou didst lead the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise; in which thy Son Jesus Christ received the baptism of John and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, being manifested thereby as the Messiah, the Christ, who leadeth us, through his precious death and mighty resurrection, from the bondage of sin unto life everlasting.

We give thee thanks, O Father, for the water of Baptism, in which we are buried with Christ in his death; by which we partake of his resurrection; through which we are made regenerate of the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to thy Son, we bring into his fellowship them that come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we beseech thee, by thy Holy Spirit (*repeated twice*) that those here cleansed from sin and made regenerate may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour, to whom, with thee and the same Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Through the Paschal mystery, dearly beloved, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

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

People I do.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

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

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost
born of the Virgin Mary.
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Ghost?

People I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As the Procession returns to the Sanctuary, the Celebrant may sprinkle the congregation with water from the Font as a memento of Holy Baptism.

LITANY OF THE SAINTS II

Be thou merciful:

Spare us, good Lord.

Be thou merciful:

Graciously hear us, good Lord.

From all evil:

Good Lord deliver us.

From all deadly sin:

Good Lord deliver us.

(The same response is made until the following:)

Even though we be sinners:

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to spare us:

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

(The same response is made until the following:)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

Spare us, good Lord.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

Graciously hear us, good Lord.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, graciously hear us.

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

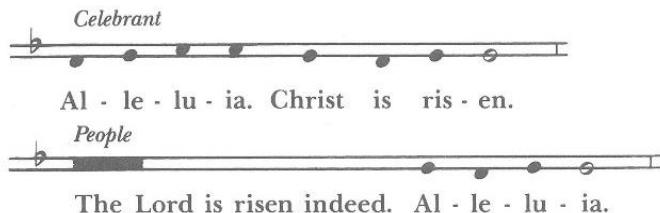
The people extinguish their candles.

THE FIRST MASS OF EASTER

THE OPENING RITE

Please remain standing.

OPENING ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People

The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

FANFARE "Lux et origo"

Steven Serpa (b. 1976)

Bells are rung during the fanfare.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias
agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam
tuam. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine fili
unigenite Iesu Christe. Domine Deus,
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris qui tollis
peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui
tollis peccata mundi, suscipe
deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad
dexteram Patris, Miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus
Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Iesu
Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: ☩ in
Gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory be to God on high, and in earth
peace, good will towards men. We praise
thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we
glorify thee. We give thanks to thee for thy
great glory. O Lord God, heavenly king,
God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the
only begotten Son Jesus Christ; O Lord
God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us. Thou that takest
away the sins of the world, receive our
prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand
of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the
Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy
Ghost ☩ art most high in the glory of God
the Father. Amen.*

COLLECT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who didst make this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in thy Church that spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship thee in sincerity and truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

EPISTLE – Romans 6:3-11 (Please be seated)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For 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.

THE GREAT ALLELUIA (Please stand. Sung by Cantor and repeated by all three times.)



TRACT – *Laudate Dominum*

Tone VI

O Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him, all ye peoples. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more toward us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord. Glory be...

PSALM 114 – *In exitu Israel*

Tonus Peregrinus

WHEN Israel came out of Egypt : and the house of Jacob from among the strange people, 2 Judah was his sanctuary : and Israel his dominion. 3 The sea saw that, and fled : Jordan was driven back. 4 The mountains skipped like rams: and the little hills like young sheep. 5 What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest: and

thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back? 6 Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams: and ye little hills, like young sheep? 7 Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord : at the presence of the God of Jacob; 8 Who turned the hard rock into a standing water: and the flint-stone into a springing well. Glory be...

THE HOLY GOSPEL – *Matthew 28: 1-10*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant ✕ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Hail!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON

Fr. Benjamin

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Risen Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Please stand.

OFFERTORY – *Dextera Domini*

Tone II

The right hand of the Lord hath the pre-eminence: the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

HYMN 180 – “He is Risen”

Unser Herrscher

1 He is risen, he is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice:
he has burst his three day's prison; let the whole wide earth rejoice:
death is conquered, we are free, Christ has won the victory.

2 Come, ye sad and fearfulhearted, with glad smile and radiant brow!
Death's long shadows have departed; Jesus' woes are over now,
and the passion that he bore – sin and pain can vex no more.

3 Come, with high and holy hymning, hail our Lord's triumphant day;
not one darksome cloud is dimming yonder glorious morning ray,
breaking o'er the purple east, symbol of our Easter feast.

4 He is risen, he is risen! He hath opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison, risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam on our longing eyes shall stream.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818 – 1895), alt.

ORATE, FRATRES

Celebrant Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this Sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit, and that of all his holy Church.**

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy servant.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

But chiefly we are bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Domine
Deus Sabaoth: Pleni sunt caeli et
terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.
✠ Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

EUCARISTIC PRAYER A (Please kneel if you are able to do so.)

Holy and gracious Father: In thine infinite love thou didst make us for thyself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, thou didst mercifully send Jesus Christ, thine only-begotten and eternal Son, to share our humanity, to live and die as one of us, and to reconcile us unto thee, who art the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and there made an offering of himself in obedience to thy will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night in which he was betrayed unto suffering and death, our Lord Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks unto thee, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat:

THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.
Do this in remembrance of me."



Likewise, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this:

FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT
WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU, AND FOR MANY, FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."



Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his blessed death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, we offer unto thee these gifts.

Sanctify them, we beseech thee, by thy Holy Spirit, that they may be for thy people the Body and Blood of thy Son, Jesus Christ, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Do thou likewise ✕ sanctify us thy servants, that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament and serve thee in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with the ever-blessed and glorious Virgin Mary, Blessed Stephen our patron, and all thy saints into the joy of thine eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say
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 – CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast.

People Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE INVITATION – ECCE AGNUS DEI

Celebrant ♫ Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

People Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof:
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON – *Pascha nostrum*

Tone I

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, alleluia: therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to thee. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from thee. Let me live and die in thy love. Amen.

HYMN 187 – “Through the Red Sea brought at last”

Straf mich nicht

1 Through the Red Sea brought at last, Alleluia! Egypt's chains behind we cast, Alleluia!
deep and wide flows the tide severing us from bondage past, Alleluia!

2 Like the cloud that overhead, Alleluia! through the billows Israel led, Alleluia!
by his tomb Christ makes room, souls restoring from the dead, Alleluia!

3 In that cloud and in that sea, Alleluia! buried and baptized were we, Alleluia!
Earthly night brought us light which is ours eternally, Alleluia!

Ronald A. Knox (1888 – 1957)

THE CLOSING RITE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*Please kneel or stand*)

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

SOLEMN BLESSING FOR EASTER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy Spirit.

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,  the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.

People



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HYMN 174 – “At the Lamb’s High Feast”

Salzburg

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him, whose love divine gives his sacred Blood for wine,
gives his Body for the feast, Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

2 Where the Paschal blood is poured, death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, Paschal bread;
with sincerity and love eat we manna from above.

3 Mighty victim from on high, hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;
thou hast opened paradise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.

4 Easter triumph, Easter joy, these alone do sin destroy.
From sin's power do thou set free souls newborn, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory, songs of praise, Father, unto thee we raise:
risen Lord, all praise to thee with the Spirit ever be.

Latin, 1632: tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868), alt.

VOLUNTARY – *Symphony no. 5 in F minor*
V. Toccata

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844 – 1937)

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH in Providence

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Muriel Jobbers, *Treasurer*
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The Rev'd Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*
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James Busby, D.Mus., *Organist & Choirmaster*
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Cover Art: Christ Leading the Patriarchs to Paradise (c. 1480) by Bartolomé Bermejo (1440–1500) Institut Amatller d'Art Hispànic, Barcelona, Spain.