

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

IN THE GREAT VALLEY



THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

APRIL 20, 2025 — 6:00 AM

Welcome! We are so glad that you are joining us this morning.

*In this leaflet the words to be said by all are **bolded**.*



NOTES ON THE GREAT VIGIL

The Great Vigil of Easter, also called the “Paschal Vigil” or the “Divine Liturgy” is the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ during the fifty-day long celebration of the Easter season.

Historically, the earliest known accounts of The Great Vigil of Easter date to the early third century when pilgrims from Europe wrote accounts of their experience at Easter in Jerusalem. Our liturgy is still largely based on those accounts. In the ancient church, it was at this service that people, especially children, were baptized and adults received into full communion with the Church.

In the Anglican Communion (of which the Episcopal Church is fully a part), and the Roman Catholic, and Orthodox churches, the Easter Vigil is the most important service of the liturgical year.

The Vigil is traditionally held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day. The Great Vigil of Easter is considered to be the first celebration of Easter because Hebrew and early Christian tradition consider feasts and other great days to begin at sunset, so in fact, Easter begins on Saturday night.

The service begins outside with the lighting of the Easter fire, and then the congregation proceeds inside following the Paschal Candle, then the Deacon chants the Exsultet, a chant of praise to the Lord. In darkness, we hear the story of how God’s people are delivered from darkness. Finally, we proclaim Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Presider may address the people in these or similar words

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.

The Presider may say the following prayer

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 then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon bearing the Candle leads the procession pausing three times while the following is sung.



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 Paschal candle is placed in its stand. Then the Deacon, standing near the Paschal Candle, sings the Exsultet, as follows.

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. Amen

Deacon

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Deacon

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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 evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning— he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns...

Deacon

... for ever and ever.

People

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Presider may introduce the Scripture readings in these or similar words

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.

The First Reading – The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1—2:2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 398 *I sing the almighty power of God*

Forest Green

1 I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good - ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries known;

that he spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.
 and formed the crea-tures with his Word, and then pro-nounced them good.
 clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Lord, while how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
 all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

the moon shines full at his com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery-where that I could be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

Presider

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 Second Reading – Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10–15:1

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

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.” The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty.

The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn *Go down Moses*

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;
 2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
 3 They jour-neys on at his com - mand, let my peo-ple go;
 4 Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go;

op - pressed so hard they could not stand, let my peo-ple go.
 to lead the chil-dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.
 and came at length to Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.
 and let us all in Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

Refrain

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

Presider 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.

The Third Reading – 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.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 679 *Surely it is God who saves me*

Thomas Merton

1 Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust-ing him, I shall not
 2 Make his deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed

fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
 Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his

help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
 might pro - claim. Zi-on, lift your voice in sing-ing; for with

va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
 you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the

liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
 great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Presider 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 Fourth Reading – 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, “Prophesy 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, “Prophesy 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.**



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and
 3 There is one Bo - dy and one hope, one Spi - rit
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died and con - quered

1 give you light, so learn his love— its length and
 2 fear re - lease, to give the Spi - rit's u - ni -
 3 and one call, one Lord, one Faith, and one Bap -
 4 he might save; with kind and gen - tle hearts for -
 5 in the strife. A - wake, a - rise, go forth in

1 breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
 2 ty, the ve - ry bond of peace.
 3 tism, one Fa - ther of us all.
 4 give as God in Christ for gave.
 5 faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Presider 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.

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.

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.

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.**

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

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

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.**

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

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

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

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

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.**

The Presider concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

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.

If still lit, handheld candles are now extinguished

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Presider Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Gloria in Excelsis S278

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 -

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.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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. **Amen.**

Epistle Reading

Acts 10:34-43

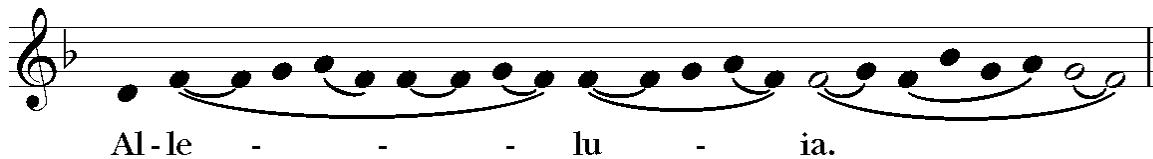
Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him

on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Great Alleluia

After the Epistle, this Alleluia is traditionally sung three times by the Presider or by a Cantor, at successively higher pitches (one whole tone each time), the Congregation repeating it each time.



The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Prayers of the People

Rejoicing in the mighty acts of God who has delivered the people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ; let us lift our voices and pray. Risen Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God for the multitude of blessings showered upon us: For our lives and for those whom we love; for the beauty of this home that God has created for us; for our families and our friendships. Let us give thanks to the God of Life. Risen Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the Church, that it may carry forward the redemptive works of God: For our clergy and our bishops; for the many people who serve the church, and serve the world through the church. For those gathered here in worship and prayer. Risen Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the newly baptized, that the joy of Easter may ever grow within them, and that the Spirit may guide them in lives of active faith and service. Risen Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the nations and peoples of the world, that the powers that oppress and destroy may decline, and that justice, peace, and prosperity be lifted up. Risen Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who are sick, those who suffer, those who struggle, and those who have died, remembering especially all those for whom our Easter memorials are given; that the hope born of Easter gives them peace, acceptance, and renewal, and that they may come into closer communion with the God who redeems and restores. Risen Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Presider Gracious and loving God, Creator and source of life; hear our prayers which we offer in the hope of eternal life given through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus the Christ; who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

This is the Lord's supper: God's feast for all of God's people. There is always an abundance here and a place for you. You are invited and encouraged to feast at God's table. Please let the priest know if you would like a gluten-free wafer. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing.

The Offertory Anthem *Arise my love, my fair one*

Gerald Near

Arise my love, my fair one and come away.
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone
The flowers appear upon the earth
The time of the singing of birds has come. Alleluia.

—*Song of Songs*

The Doxology

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here, a Proper Preface is said, as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now as our Savior Christ has 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

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Anthem *O Morn of Beauty*

Jean Sibelius, arr. H. A. Matthews

O morn of beauty, morn of gladness!
Awak'ning joy, dispelling shades of night,
Gone is the gloom, the sorrow and the sadness,
Now breaks the day of peace and light.

Sing and rejoice with joyful alleluias,
Sing alleluia, alleluia!
The days are past when souls were wrapt in mourning,
The earth awakes with vict'ry as her strain,

Lift up your hearts and greet the glad day dawning,
For Chirist the Lord is ris'n again!
Sing and rejoice with joyful alleluias,
Sing alleluia, alleluia!

The Post-Communion Prayer

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 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 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.**

Hymn 207 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

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!

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude *Prelude to "Te Deum"*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

We are glad you are here today. Please join us for a festive Easter brunch following the service.

*Our regular Sunday morning services are at 8, 9, and 11:15 a.m.
On the first Sunday of each month we worship at one morning service at 10:00 a.m.*

All are welcome at St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley.



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Offered to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Edward W. and Natalie F. Veitch given by Laurel Veitch

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Marguerite, Meveril and Jeannie Jones, and Michael and Lottie Sworen given by Doug and Judy Jones
Margery and George Baumgaertel, Janet Long, Joan and Reid Malcolm, Isobel and Richard Mansfield,
and Verna Styer given by Gail and Larry Malcolm

George Huggler given by Linda Huggler and family

Mary Jane Morris given by Anthony Morris

Trudi Graves given by David Graves

June Huff and Martha Lynn Huff given by June Huff Fulton

The Life of Bruce Kraig

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Ruth C. Kane and Joseph H. Kane given by Jennifer Ruth Lynn

Carol I. Lemert given by Dr. Michael Lemert

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Dr. and Mrs. Cannutte Russell given by Luci Russell
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EASTER DAY, APRIL 20:

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Altar Guild: Jenny Disque, Barb Coleman
Reader: Jenny Disque
Usher: Paige Infortuna
Sound: John Biggar
Vigil Readers: Suzanne Casey, Melissa Shaner, Paige Infortuna, Gail Malcolm

Flower Guild: Ann Armstrong, Susy Baum, Ginger Dagit, Brenda Grove, Jason Hacker, Pat Harvey, Linda Huggler, Tammy Kraig, Gail Malcolm, Diane Martineau, Sue McMaster, Martha Nelson

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden: Melissa Shaner
Vestry Warden: Amy Fisher

Secretary: Laurel Veitch
Treasurer: Paige Infortuna

Class of 2025
Nick Allen
Janet Himmelreich
Gail Malcolm
Melissa Shaner

Class of 2026
Liz Andersen
Amy Fisher
Tim Hepp
Dave Tatum

Class of 2027
Becky Dempsey
Duncan Kraig
Michael Smith
Tony Wirtel

ST. PETER'S CHURCH IN THE GREAT VALLEY STAFF

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
Steven Patchel, Organist/Choir Director
Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator
Erinn White, Preschool Director

The Rev. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
Seretha Curry, Assistant for Christian Formation
Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator
Mario Delano, Weekend Facilities Manager



2475 St. Peter's Road
Malvern, PA 19355
610.644.2261

parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org
<http://stpetersgv.org>

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