

## The Great Vigil of Easter

March 31, 2024

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Cynthia McKenna

**Music:** Michael Cooper-Smyth

**Preacher:** The Rev. Cannon, Dr. Lynn A. Collins

Welcome! If this is your first time here, you'll notice that we move during the service. Traditionally, we stand to sing or hear the Gospel, sit to listen, and kneel to pray. We make the sign of the cross on our heads or by touching our foreheads, hearts, and shoulders.

**Please do what feels most comfortable in your body.**

### THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

*In the darkness, fire is kindled.*

**Celebrant:** 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.

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.*

**Celebrant:** The Light of Christ.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### THE EXSULTET

**Celebrant:** All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

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

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

### ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-15:1

Canticle 8, *The Song of Moses*

**I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; \*  
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.  
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; \*  
the Lord has become my Savior.  
This is my God and I will praise him, \*  
the God of my people and I will exalt him.  
The Lord is a mighty warrior; \*  
Yahweh is his Name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; \*  
the finest of those who bear armor have been  
drowned in the Red Sea.  
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; \*  
they sank into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; \*  
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.  
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? \*  
who is like you, glorious in holiness,  
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?  
You stretched forth your right hand; \*  
the earth swallowed them up.  
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; \*  
with your might you brought them in safety to  
your holy dwelling.  
You will bring them in and plant them \*  
on the mount of your possession,  
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, \*  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.  
The Lord shall reign \*  
for ever and for ever.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

Canticle 9, *The First Song of Isaiah*

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \***

**and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \***

**from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day you shall say, \***

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***

**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \***

**and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \***

**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

HOMILY

The Rev. Cannon, Dr. Lynn A. Collins

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BCP 306

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it, the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of your creation. Through it, you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it, your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through this death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it, we are buried with Christ in his death. By it, we share in his resurrection. Through it, we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who 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 pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE ASPERGES

*The people are anointed with the blessed water of baptism as a renewal of our Baptismal vows.*

“Alleluia”

H 178

*The candles at the Altar are lit from the Paschal Candle. Bells are rung as candles are lit and at every “Alleluia.”*

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is Risen.

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

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 222

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

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.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9

*“Alleluia” may be sung and repeated.*

## THE PSALM

Psalms 118: 1-2, 14-24

## SEQUENCE HYMN

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Hymn 439

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-18

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: As we pray, let God’s holy church proclaim the resurrection, saying: *Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

Created in the image and likeness of God, we pray to see God’s image in one another. May our lives proclaim:

**People:** ***Christ is risen! Alleluia!***

Leader: Tested in faith and strengthened by God’s love, we pray for open hearts, that we may live to proclaim:

**People:** *Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

Leader: Liberated from death and despair by water and Spirit we pray for those who share our hope, that all may proclaim:

**People:** *Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

Leader: Joining with those who share in the passion of Christ through illness, famine, war, temptation, and trial, with special intention for those in our midst, especially (here the intercessions are offered), we pray for courage, strength, and relief that those who suffer may proclaim:

**People:** *Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

Leader: United in hope that your love is eternal and your embrace extends beyond the grave, we pray for (here the intercessions are offered) and all family and friends who have died, we join all the saints as we proclaim:

**People:** *Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

*Holy and everlasting God, who in the Easter mystery revealed anew the covenant of reconciliation and rebirth: open our eyes and enliven our hearts that we may behold and receive your redeeming love, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia!*

#### THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### THE OFFERTORY

Instrumental

*Today's special Easter offering goes to support Trinity's Outreach programs,  
which directly impacts the lives of people in our community.*

#### The Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

*People*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

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

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

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Celebrant and People:***      ***Christ has died.***  
    ***Christ has risen.***  
    ***Christ will come again.***

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.**

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

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

***Celebrant and People:***

**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

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

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

## COMMUNION

*All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at this table.  
Please wait for the usher to guide you to communion.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

“Now The Green Blade Riseth”

H 204

“Jesus, Remember Me”

Taize

Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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. Alleluia.**

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

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

And the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen. Alleluia.**

## THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

## POSTLUDE

“He Is Risen”

H 180

**Thank you for worshipping with us today!**



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