



St. Francis
Episcopal Church

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
APRIL 8, 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
8:00 PM



THE LIGHTING OF THE GREAT FIRE AND THE PASCHAL CANDLE

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

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, and the Deacon, bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying:

Deacon: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Members of the congregation light their candles from the Paschal Candle at this time. Other candles in the church, except for those at the Altar, may also be lighted.

The cantor stands near the Paschal Candle and sings the Exsultet.

Cantor: Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,
bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.

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

Cantor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Cantor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

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

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

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

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

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

Celebrant: 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 STORY OF CREATION

Please be seated.

READING

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

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. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Please stand.

HYMN All people that on earth do dwell

Hymnal 377

Unison or harmony

1. All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with
2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our aid he
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap - proach with joy his
4. For why? the Lord our God is good, his mer - cy is for
5. *To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom heaven and

1. cheer - ful voice: him serve with mirth, his praise forth
2. did us make: we are his folk, he doth us
3. courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his Name al -
4. ev - er sure; his truth at all times firm - ly
5. earth a - dore, from men and from the an - gel

1. tell, come ye be - fore him and re - - - joice.
2. feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
3. ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
4. stood, and shall from age to age en - - - dure.
5. host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - - - more.

Words: William Kethe (d. 1608?); para. of Psalm 100

Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

Celebrant: 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.

ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC

Please be seated.

READING

Genesis 22:1-18

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So

Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Please stand.

HYMN The God of Abraham praise

Hymnal 401

1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;
3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right-eous - ness,
4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,
5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;

1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;
2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend:
3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;
4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!
5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;

1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed;
 2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,
 3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,
 4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:
 5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;

we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.
 and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.
 e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."
 all might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

Celebrant: Let us pray. (Silence)

God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Please be seated.

READING

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

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 the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Please stand.

HYMN Canticle 8, The Song of Moses

Hymnal S-208

*Antiphon in Lent and at
the Easter Vigil* (b)

I will sing to the Lord for he has ris-en up in might.

1. I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and up - lift - ed;
the horse and its rider has he hurled in - to the sea. 2. The Lord is my
strength and my re - fuge; the Lord has be - come my Sa - vior.

3. This is my God and I will praise him, the God of my people and I
will ex - alt him. 4. The Lord is a might - y war - rior;

Yah - weh is his Name. 5. The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has
he hurled in - to the sea; the finest of those who bear armor have been

drowned in the Red Sea. 6. The fathomless deep has o - ver - whelmed them;
they sank into the depths like a stone. 7. Your right hand, O Lord, is glor - ious
in might; your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the en - e - my.

8. Who can be compared with you, O Lord, a - mong the gods? Who is like you,
 glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and worker of won - ders?

9. You stretched forth your right hand; the earth swal-lowed them up.

10. With your constant love you led the peo - ple you re - deemed;
 with your might you brought them in safety to your ho - ly dwell - ing.

11. You will bring them in and plant them on the mount of your pos -
 ses - sion, 12. The resting-place you have made for your - self, O Lord,
 the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has es - tab - - lished.

13. The Lord shall reign for ever and for ev - - er. [Ant.]
(Gloria Patri may be omitted)

14. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:

15. As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

Celebrant: 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.

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL

Please be seated.

READING

Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

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,

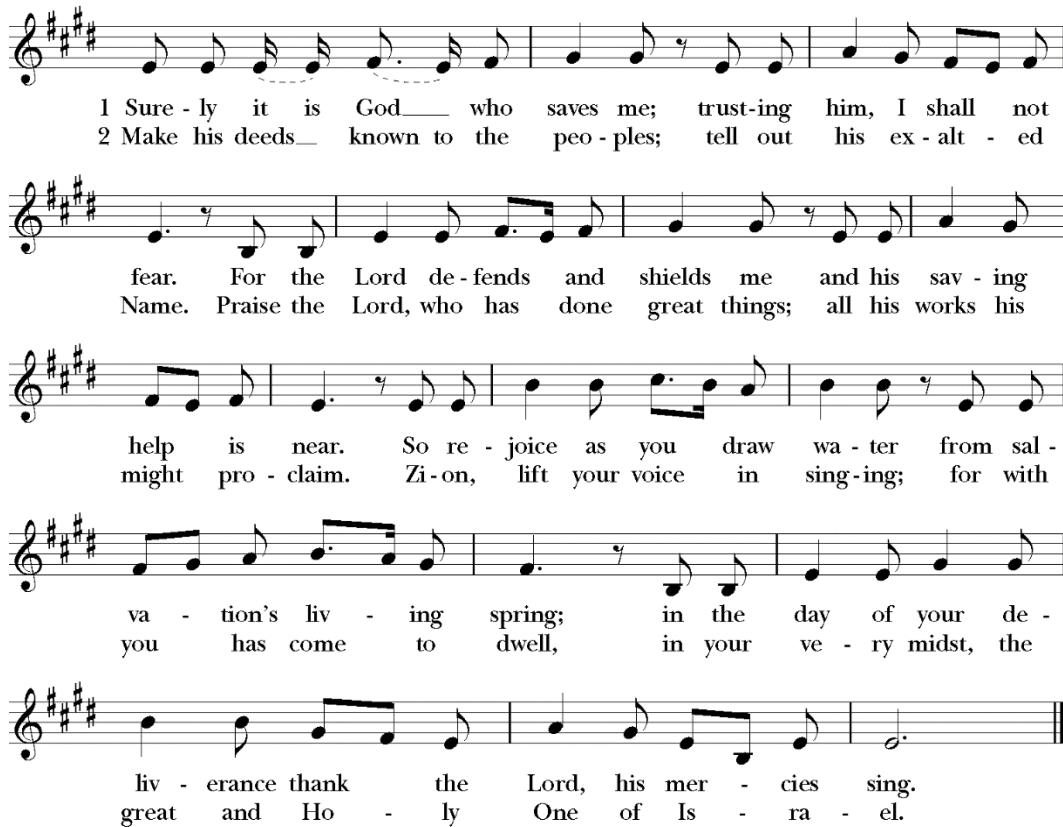
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Please stand.

HYMN *Surely it is God who saves me*

Hymnal 679



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.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); para. of *The First Song of Isaiah* Copyright ©1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr. Music: *Thomas Merton*, Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950) Copyright ©1984, Ray W. Urwin. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Celebrant: 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 VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Please be seated.

READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

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.

Please stand.

HYMN *Breathe on me, Breath of God*

Hymnal 508

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.
 till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Words: Edwin Hatch (1835-1889), alt. Music: *Nova Vita*, Lister R. Peace (1885-1969)

Celebrant: 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 GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Please be seated.

READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
 at the time when I gather you;
 for I will make you renowned and praised
 among all the peoples of the earth,
 when I restore your fortunes
 before your eyes, says the Lord.

Please stand.

HYMN “Thy kingdom come!” on bended knee

Hymnal 615

1 “Thy king - dom come!” on bend - ed knee the pass - ing a - ges pray;
 2 But the slow watch - es of the night not less to God be - long;
 3 And lo, al - rea - dy on the hills the flags of dawn ap - pear;
 4 the day to whose clear shin - ing light all wrong shall stand re - vealed,
 5 when know - ledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth a - broad;

1 and faith - ful souls have yearned to see on earth that king-dom’s day.
 2 and for the ev - er - last - ing right the si - lent stars are strong.
 3 gird up your loins, ye pro - phet souls, pro - claim the day is near:
 4 when jus - tice shall be throned in might, and ev - ery hurt be healed;
 5 the day of per - fect right - eous - ness, the prom - ised day of God.

Words: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840-1929) Music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

Celebrant: Let us pray. (Silence)

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in 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 by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

HOMILY

Written by St. John Chrysostom (407 A.D.)
Read by The Rev. Matthew Addington

Please stand.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

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, creator 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. 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.

Celebrant: 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.

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.

Celebrant: 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.

BLESSING OF HOLY WATER

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Like as the heart desires the water-brooks: so longs my soul after you, O God.

My soul is thirst for God, yes, even for the living God: when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night: while they daily say to me, Where is now your God?

Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself: for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of God;

In the voice of praise and thanksgiving: among such as keep holy-day.

The Celebrant shall mix a little salt with the water.

The Lord has said; “Salt is good, but if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.” Mindful of these words we mix this salt with the water, as a token that all who devoutly sprinkle themselves with this water, preserve within themselves the salt of Christian wisdom and strength, and should fill themselves with the spirit of peace and love. With this intention we consecrate the water and sign it with the sign of the holy cross +, that the Almighty, who created it, of his boundless mercy may cleanse our hearts from all sin, may purify them with the rich stream of his grace, and may satisfy their thirst after righteousness with the water of eternal life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sprinkle me, O Lord, and I shall be clean.

People: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty Creator, Lord of heaven and earth, who in holy baptism has made water to be an emblem of the cleansing of our souls; grant, we pray you, of your goodness, to all of us who use this water in enlightened piety and in a Christian spirit, the heavenly water of your grace, that in accordance with the promise of your Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, there may be within ourselves a well of living water springing up into everlasting life. This we ask through the merits of the same your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

The Priest shall sprinkle the congregation with holy water.

ORGAN FANFARE

The candles at the Altar may now be lighted from the Paschal Candle. Members of the congregation extinguish their candles.

Please stand.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

GLORIA

Hymnal S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - might - y 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 -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O 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. Amen.

Please be seated.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 6:3-11

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

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

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sung by all

PSALM 114

Anglican Chant by Jerome Meacham

- 1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of / Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange / speech,
- 2 Judah became God's / sanctuary *
and Israel his do- / minion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and / fled; *
Jordan turned and went / back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like / rams, *
and the little hills like young / sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you / fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned / back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like/ rams? *
you little hills like young / sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the / Lord, *
at the presence of the God of / Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of / water *
and flint-stone into a flowing / spring.

Please stand.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord hear our prayer”

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; that we all may be one, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; that your Name may be glorified by all people, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; that they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; that there may be justice and peace on the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; that our works may find favor in your sight, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; that they may be delivered from their distress, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: Give to the departed eternal rest; let light perpetual shine upon them, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; may we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: *Lord hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(Silence)

We pray to you, O Lord.

People: *Lord hear our prayer.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please stand.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Benita McFarland, organ

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP p361

SANCTUS

Hymnal S124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-^{na} in the high - est.

Please kneel.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A CONTINUES

BCP p362

Celebrant: ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: ... 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.

People: AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p364

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.

FRACTION

Hymnal S169

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff is for the *Cantor or Choir*, starting with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -". The second staff continues the lyrics with "deed, says the Lord. My Lord." and includes a section for the *All* with numbers 1 and 2 above the staff. The third staff concludes the lyrics with "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord." The *All* section is indicated above the third staff.

THE PEACE

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant: 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.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive bread only, place one palm of the hand in the other and the clergy will offer the Body of Christ to you. If you would like to receive bread and wine keep your hands by your side, and the clergy will intinct the body into the wine and place the body and blood on your tongue. To receive a blessing in lieu of communion, cross your arms over your chest and the clergy will give you a blessing.

Please be seated.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Benita McFarland, organ

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: 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.

EASTER BLESSING

Celebrant: 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.**

CLOSING HYMN 180

He is risen, he is risen

1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with
 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and
 *3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn-ing, hail our Lord's tri -
 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened

joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;
 ra - diant brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;
 um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,

let the whole wide earth re - joice: death is con - quered,
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, the pas - sion
 yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, ing o'er the
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er

we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
 that he bore - sin and pain can vex no more.
 pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2023 LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK OFFERINGS

GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER:

APRIL 8TH

8:00pm Lighting the Great Fire with Holy Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY:

APRIL 9TH

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:30am Easter Egg Extravaganza

10:00am Holy Eucharist with Flowering of Cross, nursery available

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3506 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC 27408 / (336) 288-4721 / www.stfrancisgreensboro.org

THE RT. REV. SAMUEL RODMAN
BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE RT. REV. JENNIFER BROOKE-DAVIDSON
**ASSISTANT BISHOP
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

THE VERY REV. MILTON C. WILLIAMS, JR.
RECTOR
milton@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 101)

THE REV. MATTHEW ADDINGTON
ASSISTANT RECTOR
matt@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 102)

THE REV. JOSEPH DZUGAN
DEACON
joe@stfrancisgreensboro.org

ELENA NEALSON
YOUTH MINISTRY ASSOCIATE
youth@stfrancisgreensboro.org

SAM DOYLE
CHOIR DIRECTOR
sam@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 110)

BENITA MCFARLAND
ASSISTANT CHOIR DIRECTOR
336-288-4721 (ext 110)

JANE WOODY
JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR
336-288-4721 (ext 110)

DANA KOVAL
DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
dayschool@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 200)

LINDA ALLGOOD
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
linda@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 120)

BONNIE THYER
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
office@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 121)

MARK HAMBY
**BOOK SALE MANAGER & MEMBERSHIP
COORDINATOR**
mark@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 122)

BLAIR BARNETT
BOOKKEEPER
bookkeeper@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 123)

MORGAN ADAMS
FACILITIES MANAGER
facility@stfrancisgreensboro.org (ext 129)

THE VESTRY

**Senior Warden: Claudia Clarke, Junior Warden: George Patterson,
Clerk: Angela Greiner, Treasurer: Rick Saunders**

Kitty Baker, Thu Bray, Laura Kilmartin,
Kay Nicolls, Tom Porter, Lee Schrader, Mike Sigmon,
David Smith, Bill Sutton

Vestry may be contacted at: vestry@stfrancisgreensboro.org