

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m.



Welcome to the Great Vigil of Easter, the oldest service of the church. Tonight, we gather for this ancient holy service in a completely new way. Each of us, in our own homes, will reach out in prayer to connect to God and to one another through frequencies and airwaves, through our computers and our phones.

Tonight, we conclude this season of Lent, which will be remembered as a season of loss and grief due to the coronavirus, but also as a season of care and compassion. In such a time of uncertainty, may we rejoice in this opportunity to celebrate together the Easter mystery of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the transforming light of Christ newly shining in our hearts, bringing healing and hope to the world.

Lighting the Candles

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are invited to join with those around the world and gather in vigil and prayer.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the rightness of your light. Bless this light, the light of Christ, that we honor in the candles we now light in our homes.

As we light our candles, the cantor sings:

The Lord Is My Light

Taizé

The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion, in God I trust, in God I trust. The
The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion, in God I trust, in God I trust. The

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Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

People: **We life them to the Lord**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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

Celebrant: 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 delivered your faithful people.

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

Celebrant: 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.

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

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

**All: Holy Father, accept our evening 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.**

[From "Keeping Vigil for the resurrection at Home"; adapted from the Book of common Prayer by the Rv. Joseph Peters-Mathews, St. Hilda St. Patrick, Edmonds, WA]

Salvation History

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.

Genesis 1:1-2:4a The Story of Creation

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.

Let us sing together

Bless the Lord

Taizé

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Bless the Lord'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below it. The lyrics are: 'Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho-ly name. Bless the Lord my soul, God leads me in-to life.'

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Celebrant Let us pray

Silence

All 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.

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

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.'

Let us sing together

Do Not Be Afraid

Linda Larkin

7 Do not be a - fraid. Do not be a - fraid. I am with you al - ways.
I am with you al - ways. Al - ways. Al - ways.

The musical score is written for two staves in 4/4 time. The melody is in G major. The lyrics are: 'Do not be a - fraid. Do not be a - fraid. I am with you al - ways. I am with you al - ways. Al - ways. Al - ways.'

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Celebrant Let us pray

Silence

All O Holy God, you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ezekiel 36:24-28 A New Heart and a New Spirit

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Celebrant Let us Pray.

Silence

All Almighty and everlasting God, who in the paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation. A New Commandment I give you, that you are to love one another as I have loved you. Grant that all who are reborn in the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Easter Acclamation

Celebrant *Introductory words.*

Everyone makes the acclamations three times.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

The People SHOUT The Lord is Risen Indeed!
Alleluia!

Please join in singing,

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Hymn #207

Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 But the pains which He en - dured, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 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 heav'n - ly King, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 Praise e - ter - nal as God's 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 our God, ye heav'n - 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!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

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

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

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

The Homily

Canon Hank Gatlin, *Licensed Lay Preacher*

The Liturgy of Initiation

Celebrant: As we renew our baptismal vows, let us hold in our hearts those whose baptisms have been delayed because of the pandemic.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

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: And now, let us say together.

All With God's help, I will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

With God's help, I will persevere in resisting evil, and whenever I fall into sin, return to the Lord.

With God's help, I proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

With God's help, I will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself.

With God's help, I will strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

Celebrant: Loving God,

We celebrate your saving work

Through our ancestors in faith

The Resurrection of your Son

The sacrament of Baptism

And in our own lives today,

Give us courage to confront the darkness of this world

Knowing that the Risen Christ brings light and life to all.

We ask this through Christ, or Lord. Amen.

From the Order of St. Benedict

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

People And also with you.

Words from Paula+

Communion Under Special Circumstances with Spiritual Communion

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us say together,
All **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.

Invitation To Pray Together The Spiritual Communion Prayer From The National Cathedral
A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Celebrant Let us pray together
All **My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.** *(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

An Easter Blessing

Celebrant God our Creator, whose love raised Christ from the dead; God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has given you new joy in an Easter faith; God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower and fill you with Christ's peace. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Let us sing together

Closing Hymn

This Joyful Eastertide

Hymn # 192

This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and sor - row! My
Death's flood hath lost its chill, since Je - sus crossed the riv - er; Lord
My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a sea - son slum - ber, 'til

7
Love, the Cru - ci - fied, hath sprung to life this mor - - - row.
of all life, from ill my pass - ing life de - liv - - - er, Had
7 trump from east to west shall wake the dead in num - ber.

12
Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in vain; but

18
now is Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. Measure numbers 7, 12, and 18 are indicated at the start of their respective systems.

Postlude: March Religieuse

W.A. Mozart