



St. John's Episcopal Church
Hear the Spirit ~ See God's Beauty ~ Act in Love

The Great Vigil of Easter
April 19, 2025 7pm

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant addresses the people in these 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.

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 is carried in procession, pausing three times while a cantor sings.

Cantor The light of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Then the cantor, standing near the Candle, sings 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.

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.**

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

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. 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.





- 1 Rejōice in the LÓRD, you ríghteous; *
it is good for the just / to sing práisēs.
- 2 Praise the LÓRD with thé harp; *
play to him upon the / psalterý and lýre.
- 3 Sing for him a nów song; *
sound a fanfare with all your skill up/on the trümpët.
- 4 For the wórd of the LÓRD is right, *
and / all his wórks are süre.
- 5 He loves ríghteousness ánd justice; *
the loving-kindness of the LORD / fills the w höle ëarth.
- 6 By the word of the LORD wére the héavens made, *
by the breath of his mouth / all the héävenly hösts.
- 7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as ín a wáter-skin *
and stores up the / depths of thë sëa.
- 8 Let all the éarth fear thé LORD; *
let all who dwell in the world / stand in áwe of him.
- 9 For he spóke, and it cáme to pass; *
he commanded, / and it stóod fást.
- 10 The LORD brings the will of the nátions tó naught; *
he thwarts the designs / of the pëoplës.
- 11 But the LORD's will stands fást for éver, *
and the designs of his / heart from áge to äge.

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 Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:8-18; 9:8-13

The Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind-- every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh-- birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth-- so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Psalm 46 *Deus noster refugium*

Tone V.1



- 1 God is our refuge and stréngth, *
a very present hélp in tróuble.
 - 2 † Therefore we will not fear, though the éarth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the dépths of thé sea;
 - 3 Though its waters ráge and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble át its túmult.
 - 4 The LORD of hosts is wíth us; *
the God of Jacob ís our stróngthold.
 - 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of Gód, *
the holy habitation óf the Móst High.
 - 6 God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be óverthrown; *
God shall help hér at the bréak of day.
 - 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are sháken; *
God has spoken, and the éarth shall mélt away.
 - 8 The LORD of hosts is wíth us; *
the God of Iacob ís our stróngthold.
 - 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LÓRD, *
what awesome things hé has dóne on earth.
 - 10 It is he who makes war to cease in áll the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and búrns the shiélds with fire.
-

11 “Be still, then, and know that Í am God; *

I will be exalted among the nations;

I will be exalted in the earth.”

12 The LORD of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold. [Ant.]

Let us pray.

Silence

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

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

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

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."



- 1 *G*ive thanks to / the LORD, for hé is good, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 2 Give / thanks to the Gód of gods, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 3 Give / thanks to the Lórd of lords, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 4 Who on/ly does great wónders, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 5 Who by wis/dom made the héavens, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 6 Who spread out the earth / upon the wáters, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.

- 7 Who / created gréat lights, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 8 —/The sun to rúle the day, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 9 The moon and the stars / to govern thé night, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 23 Who remembered / us in our lów estate, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 24 And delivered / us from our énemies, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 25 Who gives / food to all créatures, *
for his mercy endures / for évër.
- 26 Give / thanks to the Gód of heaven, *
for his mercy endures / for évër. [Ant.]

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.

A new heart and a new spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: 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.



- 1 Give judgment for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people; *
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- 2 For you are the God of my strength;
why have you put me from you? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?
- 3 Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, *
and bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling;
- 4 That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness; *
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 6 —Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God. [Ant.]

Let us pray.

Silence

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.**

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, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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 prophecy, 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.



- 1 LORD, *h*ear my prayer,
and in your faithfulness heed my sup/plications; *
answer me / in y^öur rⁱghteousness.
- 2 Enter not into judgment with / your s^érvant, *
for in your sight shall no one liv/ing b^ë j^ústified.
- 3 For my enemy has sought my life;
he has crushed / me t^ó the ground; *
he has made me live in dark places like those / who äre l^óng dead.
- 4 My spirit faints / withⁱn me; *
my heart within / me is d^ésolate.
- 5 I remember the time past;
I muse up/on äll your deeds; *
I consider the / works öf y^öur hands.
- 6 I spread out / my h^ánds to you; *
my soul gasps to you / like ä thⁱrsty land.

- 7 O LORD, make haste to answer me; my spir/it fáils me; *
do not hide your face from me
or I shall be like those who / go dōwn tó the Pit.
- 8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
for I put / my trúst in you; *
show me the road that I must walk,
for I lift / up mÿ sōul to you.
- 9 Deliver me from my ene/mies, Ó LORD, *
for I flee to / you fōr réfuge.
- 10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for / you áre my God; *
let your good Spirit lead / me ön lével ground.
- 11 Revive me, O LORD, for / your Náme's sake; *
for your righteousness' sake, bring me / out öf tróuble.
- 12 Of your goodness, destroy my enemies
and bring all / my fōes to naught, *
for truly I / am yöur sérvant. [Ant.]

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 EUCHARIST

The candles at the Altar may now be lighted from the Paschal Candle.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Gloria S-280

Service music is found at the beginning of the hymnal, listed in numerical order before the hymns

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant 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 Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

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.

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

Psalm 114:1-8 *sung to the tune* OLD 100TH found in the hymnal #377

1. When Israel came, and Judah's house,
From Egypt's alien speech and ways,
Israel was his dominion then,
Judah became his holy place.
2. The Sea beheld these things and fled,
Jordan turned back, its bed was dry;
The lofty mountains skipped like rams,
The little hills like lambs leaped high.

4. Now tremble at his presence, earth:
The God of Jacob, God alone;
Who turned hard rock into a pool,
Brought flowing streams from hard flintstone.

The Great Alleluia



The Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

Presider The Holy Gospel of Our Lord 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.

Following the Gospel

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Paschal Homily

At the Easter Vigil, it is often the custom to read a selection from one of the Church Fathers. The Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom (d. 407) is traditionally read at the end of Orthros (Morning Prayer) on Easter Day in the Eastern Orthodox tradition.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Celebrant 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.

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 Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?

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.**

Versicle at the Asperges *Vidi Aquam* Medieval plainsong

The Prayers of the People

Litanist Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Litanist Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Litanist We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Litanist We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Litanist Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Litanist Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Litanist Remembering all those in whose memory our flowers have been given, give
to the departed eternal rest.
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Litanist We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

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

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

Offertory Hymn #200 *Come ye faithful, raise the strain*

GAUDEAMUS PARITER

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Presider gives thanks to God, continuing until the words

Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

The Sanctus Hymnal S-125

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.

The Presider continues the Eucharistic Prayer, continuing until the words

and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Presider continues the Eucharistic Prayer, continuing until the words

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

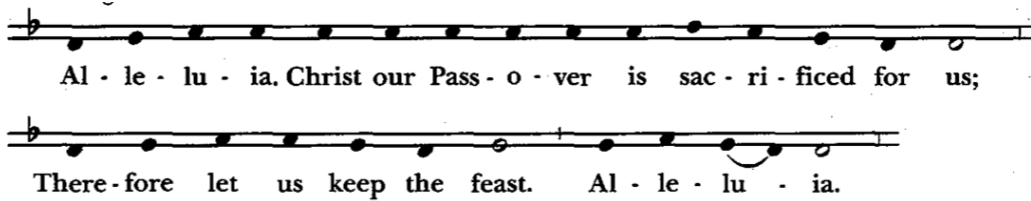
Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.



Anthem at Communion *O sons and daughters let us sing!* From *Airs sur les hymnes sacres, odes et noëls* 1623

All who seek to receive Christ in the sacrament of this meal are welcome to partake of the bread and wine. Please come to the altar up the center aisle and return to your pew down the side aisles. You are welcome to receive both the bread and the wine, bread only, or a blessing. To receive the bread, stand or kneel at the altar rail and the priest will place the host in your hands. The wine is available either from the common cup, or in individually pre-packaged containers on small tables at either end of the altar rail. To receive the wine from the pre-packaged cup, open the foil seal at the top of the container, drink the wine, and place the empty cup into the basket.

The Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand as able.*

Presider Let us pray.

People **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.**

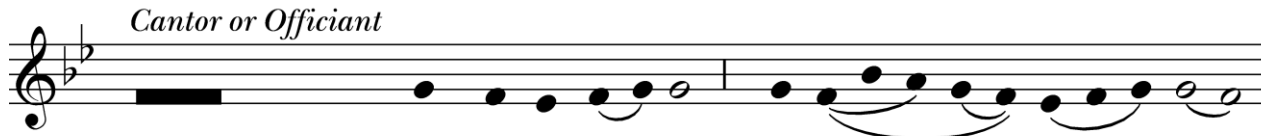
The Easter Blessing

Closing Hymn #187 *Through the Red Sea brought at last*

STRAF MICH NICHT


The Dismissal

Cantor or Officiant



Let us bless the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

People



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

Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Postlude *Erschienen ist der herrlich Tag* Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

Ministers Serving This Evening:

The Rev. Greg Johnston, Officiant
Douglas Witte, Organist and Choir Director
Michael Fenn, Seminarian
Maureen Lavelly, Jake Sterling, Alice Krapf, Jane Struss,
and Louise Ambler Osborn, Readers
Jane Struss, Litanist
Catherine Womack, Altar Guild
Matt Hast and George Born, Ushers

Choir

Maggie Tompros, Barbara Bush, Louise Ambler-Osborn, Alice Krapf,
Julianne Gearhart, John Quinn, Pell Osborn, Jake Sterling

*Thanks go to Nancy Armstrong and Joanne Graziano
for ordering and arranging the beautiful Easter lilies throughout the church.*



If you're new to St. John's, welcome! You can scan this QR code for our **Visitor Card**, which will allow you to sign up for our weekly newsletter to stay in touch about what's going on in the church. Paper cards are also available in the pews.

THE LILIES HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN THANKSGIVING FOR

Loving Family and Friends

by Maureen Lavelly

AND GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF

The Armstrong and Finch Families

by Nancy Armstrong and Steve Finch

**Nancy Carroll, Daniel Carroll,
Laura Kerr, William Kerr and William Kerr, Jr.**

by Laura Carroll

**Catherine and Carlo DiManno, Cecilia McDougall
and Luigi Imbrogiano**

by Jen DiManno

Emily Hay

by Peter and Elizabeth Hay

Lurette Bourne

By Greg Johnston and Priscilla Burns

Mogli, Daisey and Milo

by Sarge Locke

John and Mary Noonan

by Patricia Noonan

**William Campbell Womack, Pierce Allen Riley,
and Elizabeth Sparrow Riley**

by Catherine Womack

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

27 Devens Street, Charlestown, MA 02129

617-242-1272 | stjohns02129@gmail.com | www.stjohns02129.org

The Rev. Gregory Johnston, Rector

Mr. Douglas Witte, Organist and Choirmaster

Nancy Savage, Godly Play Teacher

Ms. Priscilla Burns, Parish Administrator

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Sexton

Mr. Simon Ringrose and Mr. Matt Hast, Wardens