

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 4, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Festal Choral Eucharist, Rite II

CONCERNING THE LITURGY

We gather in the darkness of the night on which Jesus rose from the dead. This service is unlike any other service in the year. It is the Christian Passover feast in which we celebrate the Passover of Jesus from death into life and our own Passover from death to life in Holy Baptism. The service has four parts.

The Service of Light

We gather to kindle a fire to drive away the darkness and from the New Fire a large candle called the paschal candle is lighted. As it is carried into the midst of our assembly the deacon sings out “The light of Christ” and we respond “Thanks be to God.” From that candle the people light their own small candles and church is filled with the light of Christ. Then the deacon or another singer sings the ancient hymn known as the *Exsultet* which praises God for this night in which the ancient people of Israel were delivered from Egypt at the Red Sea, in which Christ raised from the dead, and in which we are baptized into his death and resurrection.

The Vigil

We then settle down and read a number of passages from the Old Testament which cover the major events of salvation history. After each reading, we stand and sing a psalm and one of the ministers leads us in a prayer that relates the story to our salvation and our baptism.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The readings, by reminding us of our sacred story, have reaffirmed our identity as the People of God, the Body of Christ. Now we renew the promises of Baptism by which the Church gave birth to us as members by water and the Holy Spirit. It is in the rising of the baptized from the waters of baptism that the resurrection of Christ is renewed in our midst. When we, the members of his Body, stand in prayer, the Body of Christ is raised and made visible to the world.

Holy Eucharist

This is *the* Eucharist of the year; the one after which all other Eucharists are patterned. In sign and sacrament, holy story and song, the dying and rising of Jesus in the midst of his people is once again realized. Sharing in the holy gifts of the altar, we find ourselves made one with Christ and rejoice in this foretaste of the glory of God’s Kingdom.

Above from: *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

▲ *Indicates the People stand, as able.*

✙ *Indicates the People may make the sign of the cross.*

The liturgy begins outside with the Easter Fire.

▲ THE KINDLING OF THE NEW FIRE

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 PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH

The bearer of the Paschal Candle leads the procession pausing for a station at: the Easter Fire, the front door of the church, and the baptismal font, chanting each time:



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

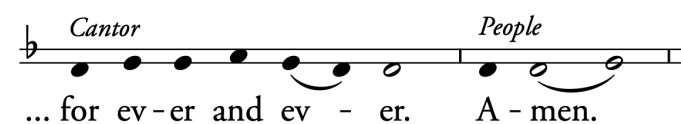
At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response is sung successively a step higher.

Individual vigil candles are located at the end of each pew. Please light your candle from the nearest standing torch

▲ THE EXSULTET

Jeannie Cummins, 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 ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Reader 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 136:1–4, 23–26 *Confitemini*

arr. Peter Hallock (1924–2014)

Cantor *All*

1. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good * **for his mercy en-dures for ever.**

2. Give thanks to the God of gods, * *Repeat above*

3. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, * *etc.*

4. Who only does great won-ders, *

All

23. Who remembered us in our low es-tate, * **for his mercy endures for ev-er.**

24. And delivered us from our enemies, *

All

25. Who gives food to all crea-tures, * **for his mercy en-dures for ever.**

26. Give thanks to the God of hea-ven, *

The People stand. The second Reader goes to the lectern.

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.**

The People sit.

SECOND LESSON

Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22:1–18

Reader 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."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 16 *Conserva me, Domine*



Pro-tect me, O God, for I take ref - uge in you.

from *Gradual Psalms for the RCL*, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing Inc.

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *

I have said to the LORD, "You are my LORD, my good above all other."

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *

upon those who are noble among the people. **Refrain**

But those who run after other gods *

shall have their troubles multiplied.

Their libations of blood I will not offer, *

nor take the names of their gods upon my lips. **Refrain**

O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *

it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *

indeed, I have a goodly heritage. **Refrain**

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *

my heart teaches me, night after night.

I have set the LORD always before me; *

because he is at my right hand I shall not fall. **Refrain**

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *

my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, *

nor let your holy one see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life; *

in your presence there is fullness of joy,

and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. **Refrain**

The People stand. The third Reader goes to the lectern.

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.**

The People sit.

Reader 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.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand and sing

▲ CANTICLE A

1 Wis - dom freed a ho - ly peo - ple, blame - less from op -
2 Through the Red Sea safe - ly brought them, led a - long the

pres - sors' sword, and with - stood, with signs and won - ders,
wa - ters steep, but their en - e - mies she swal - lowed,

rul - ers dread to serve the Lord. Giv - ing them re -
o - ver - whelmed them in the deep. For sal - va - tion,

ward of la - bors, led the saints a - long her way, she was
Lord, the right - eous praised your name with one ac - cord: song - filled

blaze of stars in dark - ness and a shel - ter through the day.
tongues of new - born peo - ple ut - tered Wis - dom's might - y word.

Words: Canticle A, *A Song of Wisdom (Sapientia liberavit)*; para. Patricia B. Clark, 1994

Music: *Breuer*; David Ashley White, 1991. Text © 2002 and music © 1991 Publishing Co.

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The fourth Reader goes to the lectern.

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.**

The People sit.

FOURTH LESSON

Learn wisdom and live

Baruch 3:9–15, 3:32–4:4

Reader A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom! Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a foreign country, that you are defiled with the dead, that you are counted among those in Hades? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. If you had walked in the way of God, you would be living in peace for ever. Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace. Who has found her place? And who has entered her storehouses? But the one who knows all things knows her, he found her by his understanding. The one who prepared the earth for all time filled it with four-footed creatures; the one who sends forth the light, and it goes; he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling; the stars shone in their watches, and were glad; he called them, and they said, "Here we are!" They shone with gladness for him who made them. This is our God; no other can be compared to him. He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. Afterwards she appeared on earth and lived with humankind. She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk towards the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people. Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE B

A Song of Pilgrimage

George Emblom (b. 1962)

Before I ventured forth,
even while I was very young, *

I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.

In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, *
and I will seek her to the end.

From first blossom to early fruit, *
she has been the delight of my heart.

My foot has kept firmly to the true path, *
diligently from my youth have I pursued her.
I inclined my ear a little and received her; *
I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.
To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, *
for I have resolved to live according to her way.
From the beginning I gained courage from her, *
therefore I will not be forsaken.
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, *
therefore have I gained a good possession.
As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language,*
and with it will I offer praise to God.

—Ecclesiasticus 51:13–16, 20b–22

The People stand. The fifth Reader goes to the lectern.

Celebrant Let us pray. (*Silence*)
O God, you led your ancient people by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night:
Grant that we, who serve you now on earth, may come to the joy of that heavenly
Jerusalem, where all tears are wiped away and where your saints for ever sing your praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The People sit.

FIFTH LESSON

A new heart and a new spirit

Ezekiel 36:24–28

Reader A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

A New Heart

Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.

I will take away your heart of stone.

I will give you a heart of flesh.

—Ezekiel 36:26

The People stand.

Celebrant 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 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 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.**

▲ THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People
The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

Individual vigil candles are extinguished.

The altar candles are now lighted from the Paschal Candle and bells are rung.

The people are sprinkled with Holy Water as a remembrance of their baptism.

▲ GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 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. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the
Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For

you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Setting: William Mathias (1934–1992)

The Reader of the Epistle goes to the lectern.

▲ 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 forever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 6:3–11

Reader 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand and sing

▲ HYMN



1 Through the Red Sea brought at last, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Like the cloud that o - ver-head, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 In that cloud and in that sea, Al - le - lu - ia!



E - gypt's chains be - hind we cast, Al - le - lu - ia! deep and wide
through the bil - lows Is - rael led, Al - le - lu - ia! by his tomb
bur - ied and bap - tized were we, Al - le - lu - ia! Earth - ly night



flows the tide sev - ering us from bond - age past, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ makes room, souls re - stor - ing from the dead, Al - le - lu - ia!
brought us light which is ours e - ter - nal - ly, Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Ronald A. Knox (1888–1957)

Music: *Straf mich nicht*, melody from *Hudret Arien*, 1694

▲ GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1–10

Gospeler 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.”

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

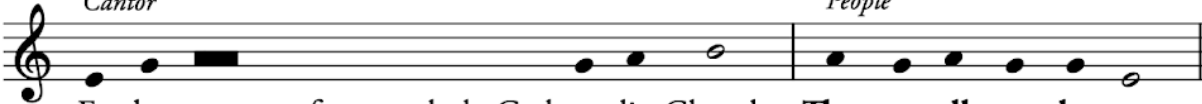
The People are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Celeste Cox, *Associate Priest*


▲ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Cantor *People*



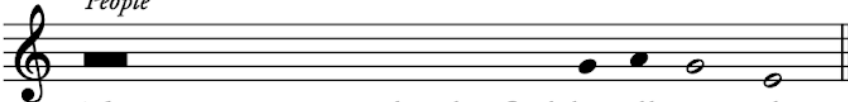
Fa-ther, we pray for your holy Cath-o - lic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Cantor



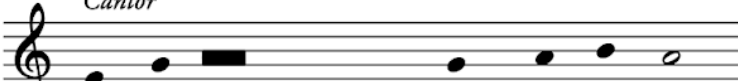
Grant that every member of the Church may truly and hum-bly serve you;

People



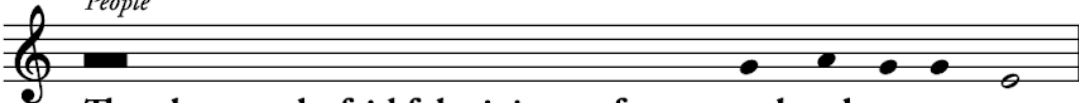
That your Name may be glorified by all peo - ple.

Cantor



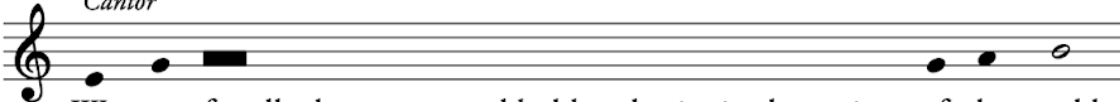
We pray for all bishops, priests, and dea-cons;

People



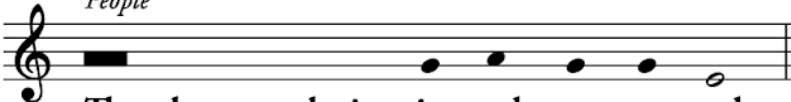
That they may be faithful ministers of your word and sac-ra-ments.

Cantor



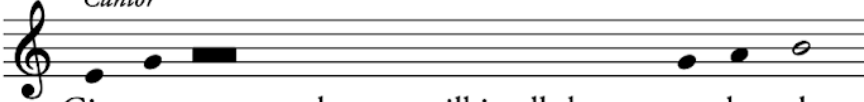
We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People



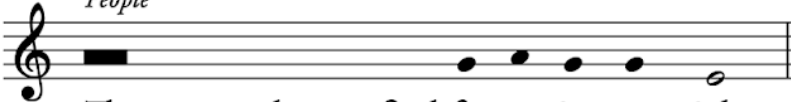
That there may be jus-tice and peace on earth.

Cantor



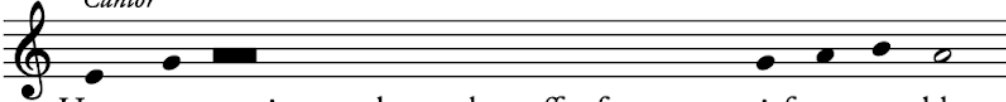
Give us grace to do your will in all that we un-der-take;

People



That our works may find fa-vor in your sight.

Cantor



Have com-compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trou-ble;

People

That they may be deliv-ered from their dis-tress.

Cantor *People*

† Give to the depart-ed e-ter-nal rest; **Let light perpetual shine up-on them.**

Cantor

We praise you for your saints who have entered in-to joy;

People

May we also come to share in your hea-ven-ly king-dom.

Cantor

Let us pray for our own needs, and the needs of o - thers.

Setting: Anaphoral chant; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (1947–2025)

Celebrant Creator of all, you long for the harmony of the human race and for peace between the nations. In places of conflict bring us your healing, in places of suffering bring us your strength, in places of oppression bring us your protection, and in places of power bring your love and compassion, for the sake of your Son, who endured the violence of hostile humanity, even Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

▲ THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

After exchanging the peace, the People are seated.

Blessings for birthdays and anniversaries will be offered next weekend.

PASTORAL GREETING

The Rev. Jeffrey Austin Ross, *Rector*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

R.S. Thatcher (1888–1957)

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his Israel
into joy from sadness;
'tis the spring of souls today,
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days sleep in death
as a sun hath risen.

Now the queen of seasons, bright
with a joy of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal,
hold thee as a mortal;
but today amidst the twelve
thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore
passeth human knowing.

–St. John of Damascus (c. 675–749)
tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866)

*The People stand and sing***▲ PRESENTATION HYMN**

Through north and south and east and west May God's im - mor - tal name be
blessed: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Till ev - 'ry - where be - neath the
sun, God's reign be - gins; God's will is done: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: from *Songs of Praise*, alt.Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), alt. © Oxford University Press

▲ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, heaven 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.

Setting: William Mathias (1934–1992) © 1976, Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the

new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
People **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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

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

▲ THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be thy Name, thy king-dom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread.
And for-give us our tres-pas-ses, as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us.
And lead us not in-to temp-ta - tion, but de-liv-er us from e - vil. For thine is
the king-dom, and the power, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944)

▲ FRACTION ANTHEM



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our
Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the
feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: *The Hymnal 1982*, S 155, Gerald R. Near (b. 1942) © 1985 Aureole Editions. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.)

The People sit. Ushers will direct the People to the altar rail by pew.

The Sacrament is distributed; please know that Communion is full and complete in either bread or wine.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Now the green blade riseth
At the Lamb's high feast we sing

The Hymnal 1982, # 204
174

COMMISSIONING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS *if present*

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

The People stand.

▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant 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 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.**

harmony found in

The Hymnal 1982, # 180

▲ HYMN IN PROCESSION



1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with joy - ful voice:
2 Come, ye sad and fear-ful-heart-ed, with glad smile and ra - diant brow!
3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn-ing, hail our Lord's tri - um-phant day;
4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened hea-ven's gate:



he has burst his three days' pris - on; let the whole wide earth re-joyce:
Death's long sha-dows have de - part - ed; Je - sus' woes are o - ver now,
not one dark-some cloud is dim-ming yon-der glo - rious morn-ing ray,
we are free from sin's dark pris - on, ris - en to a ho - lier state;



death is con-quer-ed, we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
and the pas - sion that he bore - sin and pain can vex no more.
break - ing o'er the pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
and a bright - er Eas - ter beam on our long-ing eyes shall stream.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), alt.

Music: *Unser Herrscher*, Joachim Neander (1650–1680)

▲ THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

All are invited to sit and quietly enjoy the voluntary. Please refrain from conversation during the music.

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

At Easter-tide

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

EASTER FLOWERS

have been given by

Howard Bevard to the glory of God and in memory of The Rev. Mother Virginia Marshal

Deb & Tom Bones in memory of their parents, Bill & Cindy Dec

Stu Brahs & Carol Kless in honor of their families

Sheila Bravo & Jeff Ross in thanksgiving for their children

David & Anne Canan in thanksgiving for their new granddaughter, Frankie Quill

Celeste Cox in memory of loved ones of the Cox and O'Hern families

Ned & Sandra Criscimagna in memory of their parents; A.J. & Patricia Kralina and Frank & Grace Criscimagna

Karen Dettwyler in memory of her parents, Margaret and Joseph Schranck

Robert & Pat Ditmars in memory of loved ones

Bob & Karen Fischer in memory of Bill & Barbara Fischer and Jack & Gail Millar Smith

Karen & Bob Fischer to the glory of God

George & Carol Flett in memory of Harold & Helen McCormick and George & Gertrude Flett

Candace Giel in memory of her son, Carl Joseph Giel

Martin Hollick & Michael Clark in memory of their parents, Edam Clark, Doris Clark, and Paul Hollick

Liza Holzinger in memory of Jim Holzinger, beloved husband, father, and grandfather

Brian Jenkins & Karen Willis in memory of their mothers; Irene Jones and Dorothy Jenkins

Erika Joyce in memory of her husband, John H. Joyce

Carol Kless & Stu Brahs in honor of their families

Buzz & Terri Klopp in memory of their beloved family and friends

Robert Kovalcik & Bob Howard in memory of Frank & Mary Jo Kovalcik, Tom & Barbara Bowden, Mary Abbott, and Roy Anderson

Andy & Mary Beth Krytzer in thanksgiving for Crew & Caden, and their beloved aunt, Eleanor Palkon, their parents, Doris & Bud Krytzer and Ted & Regina Palkon, and in memory of Heath Janssen

Mary Anne Latorre in memory of Jack Newell and the Latorre family

Mary Alice Martus in thanksgiving for John and his 80th birthday following his recent health scare

Mary Alice Martus in thanksgiving for all at St. Peter's who prayed and all at Beebe who nursed John through his recent health issues

Sara Sylwester & Barbara McKendrew in thanksgiving for the lives of Sharon Kelly and Paula Templeton

Jim & Mary McQuilkin in loving memory of their son, Jimmy McQuilkin

Sue Potts & Karen Kohn in thanksgiving for family

Nick & Bev Psychopaidas in memory of their siblings; Joan P., Tina P., and Paul W.

Sonja Rainieri in memory of Peter Rainieri

Barbara Tenney in memory of Mike and Bill Coté and Harry, Ed, and Dave Tenney

Michael Weider in memory of Roberta Williams Lindsay, and for World Peace