



The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Great Vigil of Easter
April 3, 2021

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

In the darkness, fire is kindled.

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 inscribed with the sign of a cross, five grains of incense are affixed on it, and it is lighted from the newly kindled fire. The procession begins, pausing three times as the cantor sings, each time at a higher pitch.



THE EXULTET

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.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our 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.

Therefore O Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice of this lighted candle, which your holy church makes before you, and offers to you by the hands of your servants, the work of the bees, your creatures. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who give his light to all creation and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Presider 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 1:1-2:4a

James Medley, Holy Spirit Fall River

James Weldon Johnson version

And God stepped out on space, and he looked around and said: I'm lonely –I'll make me a world

And far as the eye of God could see darkness covered everything blacker than a hundred midnights down in a cypress swamp. Then God smiled, And the light broke, And the darkness rolled up on one side, And the light stood shining on the other,
And God said: That's good!

Then God reached out and took the light in his hands, and God rolled the light around in his hands Until he made the sun; and he set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.
And the light that was left from making the sun God gathered it up in a shining ball
And flung it against the darkness, spangling the night with the moon and stars.
Then down between the darkness and the light he hurled the world;
And God said: That's good!

Then God himself stepped down –and the sun was on his right hand, and the moon was on his left;
The stars were clustered about his head, and the earth was under his feet.
And God walked, and where he trod his footsteps hollowed the valleys out and bulged the mountains up.
Then he stopped and looked and saw that the earth was hot and barren.

So God stepped over to the edge of the world and he spat out the seven seas –
He batted his eyes, and the lightnings flashed –He clapped his hands, and the thunders rolled –
And the waters above the earth came down, the cooling waters came down.
Then the green grass sprouted, and the little red flowers blossomed, the pine tree pointed his fingers to the sky, and the oak spread out his arms, the lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground,
And the rivers ran down to the sea;
And God smiled again, and the rainbow appeared, and curled itself around his shoulder.

Then God raised his arm and he waved his hand over the sea and over the land, and he said: Bring forth!
Bring forth! And quicker than God could drop his hand, fishes and fowls and beasts and birds swam the rivers and the seas, roamed the forests and the woods, and split the air with their wings.
And God said: That's good!

Then God walked around, and God looked around on all that he had made.
He looked at his sun, and he looked at his moon, and he looked at his little stars; he looked on his world
With all its living things, and God said: I'm lonely still.

Then God sat down – On the side of a hill where he could think; by a deep, wide river he sat down;
With his head in his hands, God thought and thought, till he thought: I'll make me a man!

Up from the bed of the river God scooped the clay; And by the bank of the river he kneeled him down;
And there the great God Almighty Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky, who flung the stars to the most far
corner of the night, who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand;

This Great God, like a mammy bending over her baby, kneeled down in the dust toiling over a lump of clay
Till he shaped it in his own image; then into it he blew the breath of life, and man became a living soul.
Amen. Amen.

PSALM 136:1-9, 23-26

Truro

Sean Glennon, St. Andrew's Hanover

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for his mercy endures for ever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his mercy endures for ever. Who only does great wonders, for his mercy endures for ever; who by wisdom made the heavens, for his mercy endures for ever; who spread out the earth upon the waters, for his mercy endures for ever; who created great lights, for his mercy endures for ever; The sun to rule the day, for his mercy endures for ever; The moon and the stars to govern the night, for his mercy endures for ever. Who remembered us in our low estate, for his mercy endures for ever; And delivered us from our enemies, for his mercy endures for ever; Who gives food to all creatures, for his mercy endures for ever. Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his mercy endures for ever.

Presider Let us pray.

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, 8:6-18, 9:8-13

Daniel Dice, St. John's Duxbury

Then 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 for 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 for 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 and first year, in the first month, on 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

Portland Psalter Book 1 Robert A. Hawthorne, 2002

Joan Kirchner, Holy Spirit Orleans

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day. The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, what awesome things he has done on earth. It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

Presider Let us pray.

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.**

ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC

Genesis 22:1-18

Paul Antenore, St. Luke's Situate

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.'

PSALM 16

Jack Warren Burnam

Sarah Brockmann, Trinity Rockland

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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Presider Let us pray.

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

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

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

Phyllis Helfrich, St. John's Sandwich

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.'

CANTICLE 8

Grace Chapel Brockton

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

Presider Let us pray.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL (read in Mandarin)

Isaiah 55:1-11

Fang Chih, Christ Church Plymouth

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

CANTICLE 9

Thomas Merton

St. Barnabas Falmouth

*Surely it is God who saves me; trusting him, I shall not fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water from salvation's healing spring;
in the day of your deliverance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.*

*Make his deeds known to the peoples: tell out his exalted Name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,
in your very midst the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Presider Let us pray.

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 LIGHT OF WISDOM

Baruch 3: 9-15, 3: 32-4:4

Suzette Phillips, Church of our Savior Middleboro

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.

Susan Mitchell and Bill Carlson, St. Mary of the Harbor Provincetown

*The stars declare his glory; the vault of heaven springs
mute witness of the Master's hand in all created things,
and through the silences of space their soundless music sings.*

*The dawn returns in splendour, the heavens burn and blaze,
the rising sun renews the race that measures all our days,
and writes in fire across the skies God's majesty and praise.*

*So shine the Lord's commandments to make the simple wise;
more sweet than honey to the taste, more rich than any prize,
a law of love within our hearts, a light before our eyes.*

*So order too this life of mine, direct it all my days;
the meditations of my heart be innocence and praise,
my Rock, and my redeeming Lord, in all my words and ways.*

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Evelyn Sanford, All Saints Attleboro

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.

PSALM 42 AND 43

Plainsong

Kay Standifer, Grace Church North Attleboro

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?" I pour out my soul when I think on these things; how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God, With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy-day. Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God. My soul is heavy within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon. One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; all your rapids and floods have gone over me. The LORD grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; in the night season his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. I will say to the God of my strength, "Why have you forgotten me? and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?" While

my bones are being broken, my enemies mock me to my face; All day long they mock me and say to me, "Where now is your God?" Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Give judgment for me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked. 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? Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling; 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. Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES (read in Swahili)

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Symon Maringa, St. Thomas Taunton

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 round 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, 'Prophecy 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, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

St. Mary's Barnstable
 Charles Morris, Wilma Morris, Cathy Morris
 Organ: Mark Lawlor

LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness. Enter not into judgment with your servant, for in your sight shall no one living be justified. For my enemy has sought my life; he has crushed me to the ground; he has made me live in dark places like those who are long dead. My spirit faints within me; my heart within me is desolate. I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; I consider the works of your hands. I spread out my hands to you; my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land. O LORD, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; do not hide your face from me or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for I put my trust in you; show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my soul to you. Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD, for I flee to you for refuge. Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; let your good Spirit lead me on level ground. Revive me, O LORD, for your Name's sake; for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble. Of your goodness, destroy my enemies and bring all my foes to naught, for truly I am your servant.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Zephaniah 3:12-20

Hilary Greene, St. Peter's Osterville

For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord—the remnant of Israel; they shall do no wrong and utter no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths. Then they will pasture and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid. Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

PSALM 98 (Sung in Zulu)

Noble F. Scheepers, Trinity Marshfield

Hlabelelani kuJehova ingoma entsha,
ngoba wenza imisebenzi emangalisayo.
Isandla sakhe sokunene nengalo yakhe enamandla
ufeze ukuhlengwa.
iNkosi ibonakalisa amandla ayo okusindisa;
wembula ubulungisa bakhe emehlweni ezizwe.
Uhlala ethembekile futhi ethembekile emndenini
wakwa-Israyeli.
Yonke imikhawulo yomhlaba iyambona
uNkulunkulu wethu esophula.
Memezela iNkosi, mhlaba wonke. Khamulukani
ngenjabulo nihlabelele!
Hlabelelani uJehova ngehabhu, ephelezelwa
yihabhu nomsindo womculo.
Ngamacilongo nangokukhala kophondo lwenqama,
memezela izindumiso phambi kwenkosi, iNkosi.
Ulwandle nakho konke okukulo makumemeze,
kanye nezwe nalabo abahlala kulo.
Imifula mayishaye ihlombe, Izintaba mazicule kanye
Kanye phambi kweNkosi.
Ngoba uyeza ukwahlulela umhlaba.
Wahlulela izwe ngokulunga, nezizwe ngendlela
enobulungiswa.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.
The LORD has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight
of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and faithfulness
to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth
have seen the victory of our God.
Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout
with joy before the King, the LORD.
Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the
lands and those who dwell therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

ON THE CROSS Zulu Song

Eduze nesiphambano (Near the Cross)
Kunomthomb' omuhle (There's a precious fountain)
Amanzi okwelapha (A healing stream)
Evela ku Jesu (From Jesus)

Esiphambanweni (On the Cross)
Ngodumisa mina (Be my glory forever)
Lapho umoya wami (That is where my heart)
Wophumula khona (Shall find rest)

Presider Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

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.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
People I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?
People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People I will, with God's help.

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.

Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?
People I will, with God's help.

The Presider concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

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 FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

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

CARILLON FLOURISH

Maggie Arnold, St. Stephens Cohasset

THE GLORIA

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you
People **And also with you**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE EPISTLE

Romans 6: 3-11

John Brockman, Grace Norwood

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

EASTER ALLELUIA

The cantor sings the alleluia and then the congregation repeats it, each time it is sung at a higher pitch.

THE GOSPEL

Mathew 28: 1-10

James Thomas, Christ Church Plymouth

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

A Reading of the Easter Homily by St. John Chrysostom

Marilyn McMillan, St. David's South Yarmouth

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Common Worship

Br. Virgilio Fortuna BSG, St. Mark's Foxboro

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.
Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.
Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word.
Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way.
Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.
Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you.
Raise us with them to eternal life.
Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Allegro Maestoso e vivace from Sonata No. 2
Brittany Lord, Church of the Messiah Woods Hole

Felix Mendelssohn
1809-1847

THE HOLY COMMUNION

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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:

SANCTUS

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.

Then the Celebrant continues

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

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

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

This setting is not used in Lent.

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.

COMMUNION MOTET

Noel Nouvelet

St. John's Choristers, St. John's Hingham

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain, Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain, Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *said by all*

Giver of all, we are nourished with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with the Spirit of love, and unite us in faith, that we may be witnesses to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ the Risen Lord. Amen.

POST COMMUNION HYMN

Descant, John Rutter

Descant



1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 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 heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his 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 him, all ye heaven - 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!

Words: Latin, 14th cent.; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt. St. 4, Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Easter Hymn*, from *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; adapt. *The Compleat Psalmodist*, 1749, alt., desc. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950 Copyright © Hymns Ancient and Modern Limited. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

VOLUNTARY

Toccata in F major from the 5th Symphony
 Stephan Griffin, All Saints Brookline

Charles-Marie Jean Albert Widor
 1844-1937

Presider The Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts
 Assisting Sr. Adele Marie, SSM
 Organist Elisabeth Gray
 Cantors Sr. Kristina Frances, SSM
 Schola Kaja Fickes, Jonathon Fornoff, and Matthew MacDougall.
 Trumpet Christopher O'Hara

This video was coordinated by Elise Feyerherm, Kristina Frances SSM, Stephan Griffin, Amy McCreath and Louise Munding. With help from Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, and the Regional Canons and Deans. Special thanks to our videographer Justin Petty.

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