The Great Vigil of Easter St. Peter's at the Light, Barnegat Light, NJ April 16, 2022

Our Easter Vigil service has four parts:

- 1. The Service of Light
- 2. The Service of Lessons
- 3. The Liturgy of the Word
- 4. The Liturgy of the Eucharist



The Service of Light

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.

All: Amen.

The Paschal Candle will be blessed and marked with the sign of the cross and with the year.

It is then lit from the newly kindled fire

The priest will bear the Candle into the chancel, with the congregation following.

The Procession into the Church

During the procession, the priest will pause three times to sing, and all will respond in song.

Priest: The Light of Christ. **People:** Thanks be to God.

When the Paschal Candle has reached the sanctuary and the congregation is in place, the Paschal Candle will be placed in its stand.

The candles held by the congregation will then be lit from the light of the Paschal Candle. When all candles are lit, the Deacon will proclaim **the Exsultet**.

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

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

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

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Deacon: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning--he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

The Service of Lessons

Celebrant: Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The Celebrant will introduce the first reading.

OT Lector 1: A reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 14:10 - 15:1

¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew closer, the Israelites looked back and saw the Egyptians marching toward them. The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Were not there enough graves in Egypt that you took us away to die in the desert? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt like this? ¹² Did we not tell you the same thing in Egypt? 'Leave us alone! Let us work for the Egyptians!' It would have been better for us to work for the Egyptians than to die in the desert."

¹³ But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand your ground, and watch the LORD rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never ever see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you. You just keep still."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to get moving. ¹⁶ As for you, lift your shepherd's rod, stretch out your hand over the sea, and split it in two so that the Israelites can go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ I will make the Egyptians stubborn so that they will go in after them, and I will gain honor at the expense of Pharaoh, all his army, his chariots, and his cavalry. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I gain honor at the expense of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his cavalry."

¹⁹God's messenger, who had been in front of Israel's camp, moved and went behind them. The column of cloud moved from the front and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It stood between Egypt's camp and Israel's camp. The cloud remained there, and when darkness fell it lit up the night. They did not come near each other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into

two. ²² The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry. ²⁴ As morning approached, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. ²⁵ The LORD jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn't turn easily. The Egyptians said, "Let us get away from the Israelites, because the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!"

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water comes back and covers the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. At daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptians were driving toward it, and the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the cavalry, Pharaoh's entire army that had followed them into the sea. Not one of them remained. ²⁹ The Israelites, however, walked on dry ground through the sea. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ The LORD rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the amazing power of the LORD against the Egyptians. The people were in awe of the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

^{15.1} Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

I will sing to the LORD, for an overflowing victory! Horse and rider he threw into the sea!

This is the Word of our God.

All: Thanks be to God.

OT Lector 1: Having been save by God from the powerful Egyptian army, the Hebrew people sang of God's power. Let us pray their song responsively by half verse (Exodus 15:1-6,11-13,17-18)

¹ I will sing to the LORD, for an overflowing victory! *

Horse and rider he threw into the sea!

²The LORD is my strength and my power; he has become my salvation. *

This is my God, whom I will praise, the God of my ancestors, whom I will acclaim.

³The LORD is a warrior; *

the LORD is his name.

⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his army he hurled into the sea; *
his elite captains were sunk in the Reed Sea.

⁵ The deep sea covered them; * they sank into the deep waters like a stone.

⁶ Your strong hand, LORD, is dominant in power; * your strong hand, LORD, shatters the enemy!

Who is like you among the gods, LORD? *
Who is like you, foremost in holiness,
worthy of highest praise, doing awesome deeds?

¹² You raised your strong hand; * earth swallowed them up.

¹³ With your great loyalty you led the people you rescued; * with your power you guided them to your sanctuary.

¹⁷You brought them in and planted them on your own mountain, * the place, LORD, that you made your home, the sanctuary, Lord, that your hand created.

¹⁸ The Lord will rule * **forever and always.**

Celebrant: 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.

All: Amen.

The celebrant will provide a brief introduction to the second OT Readings.

OT Lector 2: A reading from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel 36:24-28

'For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸ Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the Word of our God.

All: Thanks be to God.

OT Lector 2: Let us pray Psalm 42, verses 1 through 7, responsively, by half verse.

- As the deer longs for the water-brooks, * so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 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?
- 7 Put your trust in God; *
 for I will yet give thanks to him,
 who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Celebrant: 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.**

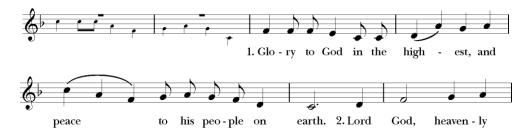
The candles at the Altar will finally be lit from the Paschal Candle.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: (Joyously!) The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Gloria Hymnal # S-280

During the Gloria, please ring all the bells you can find.





Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

All: Amen.

NT Lector: A reading from the letter of Paul to the church in Rome (*Romans 6:3-11*)

³ Do you not know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life. ⁵ If we were united together in a death like his, we will also be united together in a resurrection like his. ⁶ This is what we know: the person that we used to be was crucified with him in order to get rid of the corpse that had been controlled by sin. That way we would not be slaves to sin anymore, ⁷ because a person who has died has been freed from sin's power. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we have faith that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and he will never die again. Death no longer has power over him. ¹⁰ He died to sin once and for all with his death, but he lives for God with his life. ¹¹ In the same way, you also should consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel procession.



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

Matthew 28:1-10

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ

¹Dawn was breaking on the first day of the week; the sabbath was over. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had come to look at the tomb, ² when suddenly there was a great earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. He came to the stone, rolled it away and sat on top of it. ³ Looking at him was like looking at lightning, and his clothes were white, like snow. ⁴The guards trembled with terror at him, and became like corpses themselves.

⁵ "Do not be afraid," said the angel to the women. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here! He has been raised, as he said he would be! Come and see the place where he was lying - ⁷ and then go at once, and tell his disciples that he has

been raised from the dead, and that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. That is where you will see him. There: I have told you." 8 The women hurried off quickly away from the tomb, in a mixture of terror and great delight, and went to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly, there was Jesus himself. He met them and said, "Greetings!" They came up to him and took hold of his feet, prostrating themselves in front of him.

¹⁰ Do not be afraid," said Jesus to them. "Go and tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee. Tell them they will see me there."

This is the Gospel of the Lord, the Good News of our salvation.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Are You Ready for a Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus?

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Having heard and reflected on God's history of faithfulness, let us now stand to renew our own commitment to the covenant, the commitment made through our Baptismal promises.

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.

Please stand, with lighted candles

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.

People: Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: We come with anticipation on this first day of the week to become witnesses,

sharing in the resurrection life of Jesus, as we pray: Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is

risen indeed. Alleluia!

Deacon: Eternal One, you have filled your Church with new life and empowered us

through the conquering love of Jesus: Raise us with your Spirit that we may live in the power of Christ's resurrection to bring life and light to all the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Deacon: The right hand of the Most High has triumphed over evil and death, bringing new

hope to all the world: Speak your living truth unto everyone who leads and holds

authority among the nations, that they may be agents of life and justice.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Deacon: The Apostle Peter has taught us, that you show no partiality, O God, but you

accept all who live reverently and do right: Let your peace extend to every

person, that the power of evil and injustice may be banished, and all people may

live as beloved children of the divine. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Deacon: Be with us in this community that we may be glad witnesses of your goodness, O

Holy One. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Deacon: Christ the wounded healer has overcome all that can threaten us. Let his

resurrection power bring healing and hope to those for whom we pray, especially those on our parish prayer list and those we now name, whether aloud or in our

hearts. Pause.

Give thanks to God who is good, whose mercy endures for ever. We offer our grateful gladness this Easter Day, especially for these things which we now name,

whether aloud or in our hearts. Pause.

Christ has died and is risen, bringing life and immortality to light. We remember those who have died, especially those whose memory is honored by our Easter

flowers, and those from our community who have begun their new life in you since our last Easter celebration: *Please name them aloud now*. May they live in him

and share in the joy of Easter. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Celebrant: Gracious Eternal and Loving God, you have anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the

Holy Spirit and with power, and raised him from death on the cross into

resurrection life: Feed us with his life as we eat and drink with him in this Easter

Eucharist, that we may be his witnesses, sharing in the Spirit's work of

reconciliation and peace, through the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

An Easter Blessing of Peace

Celebrant: May our loving, liberating, and life-giving God fill you with peace today and with

hope today and always.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Let us greet each other with words of peace.

The Liturgy of the Table



You may stand, kneel, or sit, as you are able, for the Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your heart.

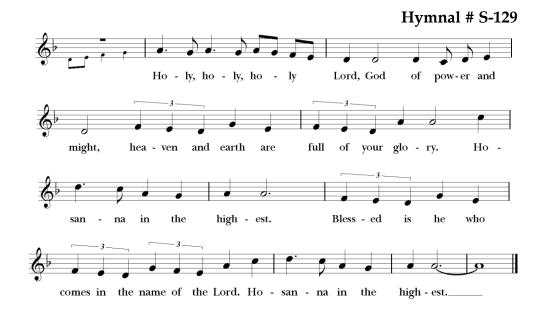
All: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: 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 we are 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Sanctus



Celebrant: 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:

All:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant:

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.

The Great Amen Hymnal # S-147



Please stand, as you are able

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

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

for thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

Priest: Alleluia! Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ

died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament at the Lord's Table. You may either stand or kneel, as you prefer, to receive the Sacrament, And you may sit or kneel, as you prefer, when you return to your pew.

If you wish to receive only the host, please consume it and then return to your pew.

If you wish to receive the host and to intinct (dip) it into the consecrated wine, Simply hold the host in your hand and instinct it when the Eucharistic Minister reaches you.

If you wish to receive the host and then to sip from the chalice, please consume the host, and then move to the Eucharistic Minister to the left of the altar rail.

Post-Communion Hymn: Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing Hymnal # 182



Celebrant: Let us pray together once again.

All: Loving God,

we give you thanks

for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Now send us forth

As a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may proclaim your love to the world

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

Please stand for the final blessings of this service

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.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: 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.

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All: Amen.

Celebrant: 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.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be

upon you and remain with you for ever.

All: Amen.





Words: John of Damascus (8th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Ellacombe*, melody from *Gesangbuch*. . . . der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen katolischen Hofkapelle, 1784, alt.; adapt. Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1863; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Cyril Winn (1884-1973) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A heart-felt "Thank You" to David Holland, our organist, and to all who assisted tonight and throughout_the services of Holy Week!

May God fill you with grace and hope and peace this day!