



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Sacred Space for Your Busy Life

The Great Vigil of Easter
Saturday, April 4, 2015
7:30 p.m.

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

At the bidding of the celebrant, all stand. Fire is kindled in the baptismal font.

Opening Prayers

After the Paschal Candle is lit, acolytes help the people light their candles from the paschal candle.

Deacon The Light of Christ *Sung three times*
People **Thanks be to God.** *Sung three times to the same tune.*

The Exsultet *Sung by a minister, remain standing*
Minister Rejoice now, heavenly hosts...
 ...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen**

Minister The Lord be with you (S120)

People **And also with you.**

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Minister It is truly right and good...

...who gives light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to the Scripture Readings *The people may now extinguish their candles.*

First Lesson The Story of Creation *seated*
 Genesis 1:1-2:2
 Psalm 36 *Sung to a simple tune. We alternate sides when singing: the ambo side of the church sings the odd numbered verses, the organ side sings the even numbered verses.*
 A Collect

Second Lesson Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac
 Genesis 22:1-18
 Psalm 16 *Sung to a simple tune as described previously.*
 A Collect

Third Lesson Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea
 Exodus 14:10-15:1
 The Song of Moses *Sung by the choir*
 A Collect

Fourth Lesson A New Heart and a New Spirit
Ezekiel 36:24-28
The First Song of Isaiah *Sung by the choir*
A Collect

Fifth Lesson The Valley of Dry Bones
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 30 *Sung to a simple tune as described previously.*
A Collect

Homily The Rev. Christopher Martin

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The minister says an opening prayer.

Minister Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Minister Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Minister 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.**

Minister 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.**

Minister Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Minister 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.**

Minister Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Minister Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Minister 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.**

The ministers process through the congregation, sprinkling the waters of baptism.

There is a loud knocking on the door, after which:

People **We have come seeking Jesus of Nazareth. What have you done with his body?**

Minister He is not here- Alleluia, Christ is risen!

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

The lights come up. All begin to ring bells as the hymn begins.

Hymn 175 *The people sing verses 1-4. Then only the choir sings. The people rejoin for verses 5-8.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, who on this most Holy night...
... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Romans 6:3-11 *Seated*

After the reading, all reply: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *All standing, if able, to sing with the choir.*

People **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel Luke 24:1-12

After the announcement the people say: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Holy Gospel, all reply: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

A Song of Praise (S-236)

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Anthem

In Thee Is Gladness

J. S. Bach

Doxology *Standing, if able; sung by all.*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia,

Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Sursum Corda (S-120)

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 God 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.

Here the Celebrant gives a Proper Preface

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 (S-129) *Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel, if able. Then the Celebrant continues.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...

...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 . . .

... 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 - *Celebrant and people*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

At the Breaking of the Bread (*S-154*)

Celebrant Alleluia Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome to receive initiation into the church through the sacrament of baptism.

Communion Music 180, 210

Prayer after Communion - *Kneeling if able*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GO INTO THE WORLD

The Blessing

Hymn 199

Dismissal

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

The Blessed Christ Is Risen Today

J. S. Bach

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