



ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
TROY, AL
APRIL 3, 2021



The Great Vigil of Easter

The Rt. Rev. J. Russell Kendrick –
Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
Dr. John Jinright – Organist
Dr. Catherine Allard – Choir Director
Dr. Robert Pullen – Celebrant

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant may address the people in these or similar words

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Celebrant bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Celebrant</i> | The light of Christ. |
| <i>People</i> | Thanks be to God. |

Candles are lighted from the Paschal Candle at this time. Other candles and lamps in the church, except for those at the Altar, may also be lighted.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand and the Cantor, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet, as follows

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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: 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.

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

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant

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

The story of Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:4a)

Psalm 136 1-9, 23-26

(say together)

BCP, p. 789-90

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ² Give thanks to the God of gods, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ⁴ Who only does great wonders, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁵ Who by wisdom made the heavens, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁶ Who spread out the earth upon the waters, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁷ Who created great lights, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁸ The sun to rule the day, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁹ The moon and the stars to govern the night, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ²³ Who remembered us in our low estate, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ²⁴ And delivered us from our enemies, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

²⁵ Who gives food to all creatures, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored,
the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of
him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus
Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Flood (Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13)

Psalm 46

(say together)

BCP, p. 649

¹ God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the
sea;

³ Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

⁴ The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁵ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁶ God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.

⁷ The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

⁸ The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁹ Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.

- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ "Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."
- ¹² The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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

Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18)

Psalm 16

(*say together*)

BCP, p. 599-600

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 goodly 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.

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.

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:10–31, 15: 20-21)

Canticle 8 *The Song of Moses* (say together) BCP, p. 85

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

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.*

God's Presence in a renewed Israel (Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6)

Psalm 19

(say together)

BCP p. 606-07

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the
innocent.

The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the
eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine
gold, *

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

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 forever sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Salvation offered freely to all (Isaiah 55:1-11)

Canticle 9, *The First Song of Isaiah*, *(say together)*

BCP, p. 86

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Let us pray. (Silence)

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)

Psalm 42 & 43

(say together)

BCP, p. 643-4

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.

43

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.

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 gathering of God's people (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

Psalm 98

(say together)

BCP, p. 727

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.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

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.*

The Celebrant 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.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Gloria in excelsis, S-278 (all sing)

Celebrant:

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up 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 in the joy of his resurrection; 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

Reading One - The Story of Creation - Curt Porter

Reading Two - The Flood - Caleb Dawson

Reading Three - Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac - Tom Davis

Reading Four - Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea - Joanna Taylor

Reading Five - God's Presence in a Renewed Israel - Jessica Pollack

Reading Six - Salvation Offered Freely to ALL - Joel Williams

Reading Seven - Anew Heart and a New Spirit - Judy Dye

Reading Eight - The Gathering of God's People - tbd