

Easter Vigil – April 3, 2021

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The Service of Light

Dear friends in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord.

We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries;
we are confident
that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever in God.

Let us pray.

Father,
we share in the light of your glory
through your Son, the light of the world.
Sanctify this new light and inflame us with new hope.
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration
and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The Exultet is sung.

The lights in the church are now turned on.

Collect of the Day

Lord God,

you have made this night bright
with the radiance of the risen Christ.

May we, who have been raised with him in baptism,
reflect the light of his glory
and live with him for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn: **Behold I Make All Things New**

Behold I make all things new.

Behold I make all things new.

Behold I make all things new.

Let there be light. Let there be light.

God unseen is taking form.

God unseen is taking form.

God unseen is taking form.

Let there be light. Let there be light.

The First and Last is surging forth.

The First and Last is surging forth.

The First and Last is surging forth.

Becoming Light. Becoming Light.

Behold I make all things new.

Behold I make all things new.

Behold I make all things new.

Let there be light. Let there be light.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has

dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ROMANS 6:3-11

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church
Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. MARK 16:1-8

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn: Light of Love

**I will climb into Your ocean, I will sail into Your shore
I will breathe in Your magnificence and never ask for more
I will be as I am written, courage on every page
I will carve this life with every breath, a sage to the age
I will turn up the fountain, and fill this world with bliss
I will sing a song of joyful love and merge into Your kiss
And I will stumble into beauty, recognizing that it's me
I will open up my heart and surrender unto Thee**

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Dear friends,
through the paschal mystery
we have been buried with Christ in baptism,
so that we may rise with him to a new life.
Now that our Lenten observance is ended,
let us reaffirm the promises we made in baptism,
when we rejected Satan and all his works,
and promised to serve God faithfully
in God's holy catholic Church.

Prayer over the Water

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, source and sustainer of life, for the gift of water.
This is the water your Spirit stirred at the dawn of creation,
separating the soil from the sea,
and calling forth a humanity fashioned to bear your image.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water through which you delivered twelve tribes
enslaved to the powers of empire and oppression.
You made a covenant with them in the wilderness beyond the Red Sea,
and led them through the Jordan into a land of promise,
uniting them as one people,
chosen to display your liberating power for all held in captivity.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water sprinkled upon a people in exile,
gifting them with a new heart and a new spirit,
gathering them together from north and south, east and west,
a fulfillment of your promise to restore those who weep in despair
to the joy and dignity of hope.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water in which Jesus, Redeemer of the world,
was baptized and named as your beloved child.

This is the water that takes its course
from the wounded side of Christ crucified,
the living water that bursts tomb-sealing rock,
giving rise to the new creation,
and birthing from every tongue and nation
a people consecrated to you.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

This is the water of life that springs forth in that city
where you dwell with a multitude beyond number,
united in the One whom they worship to the end of time and for ever.

Glory to you, for ever and ever.

Gathered around this font,
and surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,
we ask you to stir the waters once again
by the movement of your Holy Spirit.
From these waters, raise up a people hungry for justice and peace,
one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
a sign of your promise for all creation,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at the promised and eternal banquet.

We pray in communion with all the saints on earth and heaven,
with the martyrs and the faithful of all ages,
and in the name of the Lamb who was slain,
but now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
above all rule and authority, power and dominion,
for ever and ever.

Glory to you, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Prompt: Almighty God,

Response: **fill us with new life.**

Let us profess together the faith of the Church
and reaffirm the promises we made at our baptism
when we rejected Satan and promised to serve God faithfully
in God's holy catholic Church.

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

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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?

**I believe in God 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?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray,

Silence

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptised in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you,'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with God's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn: The Earth is Yours

**Your voice it thunders; The oaks start twisting
The forest sounds with cedars breaking
The waters see You; and start their writhing
From the depths a song is rising**

**Now, it's rising from the ground
Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
The earth is Yours and singing
Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
The earth is Yours
The earth is Yours**

**Your voice it thunders; The ground is shaking
The mighty mountains now are trembling
Creation sees You; And starts composing
The fields and trees they start rejoicing.**

**Now it's rising from the ground
Now it's rising from the ground
Hear us crying out
Hear us crying out**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
The earth is Yours and singing**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
The earth is Yours and singing
Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
The earth is Yours
The earth is Yours**

The Dismissal

Go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.