

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

7:44 p.m. (sunset)

April 3, 2021



*Holy Women at the Tomb
Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church
Ben Lomond, California*

For three days we have watched and waited. Tonight, we gather in the darkness of the grave seeking the light of the Paschal Mystery. Out of the darkness - fire - a burning bush in the desert, calls us to stop, to remember that we are on Holy Ground. Then we remember. It comes back to us piece by piece - the story of God's unfailing salvation for the whole world until the last piece falls into place and suddenly Jesus meets us - 'Greetings!' "The light has shined in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." This is Good News, indeed!

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Service of Light

Presider 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.

The Blessing of the New Fire

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people this 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 Blessing of the Paschal Candle

Presider May the light of Christ gloriously rising dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet

Deacon Tracie Middleton

(The people remain standing as able.)

This ancient Christian hymn has been said or sung at the Great Vigil since the 7th Century.

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, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider 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 forebearers, 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.

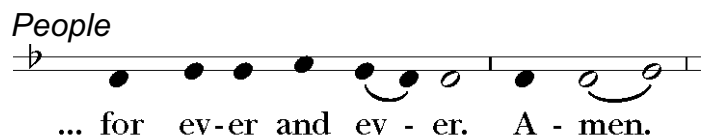
This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

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 we are reconciled to God.

Most Holy God, 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 forever and ever



The Liturgy of the Word

Presider Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved 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 1:1-2:2

retold by The Reverend Kevin Johnson

DP 131

Doxology *(Read in unison)*

**May none of God's wonderful works keep silence,
night or morning.**

**Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas,
sources of rushing rivers:**

**May all these break into song as we sing
to Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit.**

**May all the angels in the heavens reply:
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

**Power, praise, honor and eternal glory to God,
the only giver of grace.**

Amen! Amen! Amen!

Presider 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.**

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea: Exodus 14:10-15:1

retold by The Reverend Karen Calafat

Canticle A *(Read in unison)*

A Song of Wisdom, EOW p. 30

**Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors *
a holy people and a blameless race.**

**She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, *
withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.**

**To the saints she gave the reward of their labors, *
and led them by a marvelous way;**

**She was their shelter by day *
and a blaze of stars by night.**

**She brought them across the Red Sea, *
she led them through mighty waters;**

**But their enemies she swallowed in the waves
and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.**

**And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name, *
and praised with one voice your protecting hand;**

**For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute, *
and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.**

Presider 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.**

The Valley of Dry Bones: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Retold by Eleanor Forfang-Brockman

Psalm 143 (*Read in unison*)

The First song of Isaiah, BCP p. 86

- 1 **LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; *
answer me in your righteousness.**
- 2 **Enter not into judgment with your servant, *
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.**
- 3 **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.**
- 4 **My spirit faints within me; *
my heart within me is desolate.**
- 5 **I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; *
I consider the works of your hands.**
- 6 **I spread out my hands to you; *
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.**
- 7 **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.**
- 8 **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.**
- 9 **Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD, *
for I flee to you for refuge.**
- 10 **Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; *
let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**
- 11 **Revive me, O LORD, for your Name's sake; *
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.**

**12 Of your goodness, destroy my enemies and bring all my foes to naught, *
for truly I am your servant.**

Presider Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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.**

(We process to the Baptismal Font following the Paschal Candle as the Presider says:)

(The people gather bells in preparation for the proclamation of Easter.)

The Gospel Proclamation

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (28:1-10)
Glory to you, O 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.'

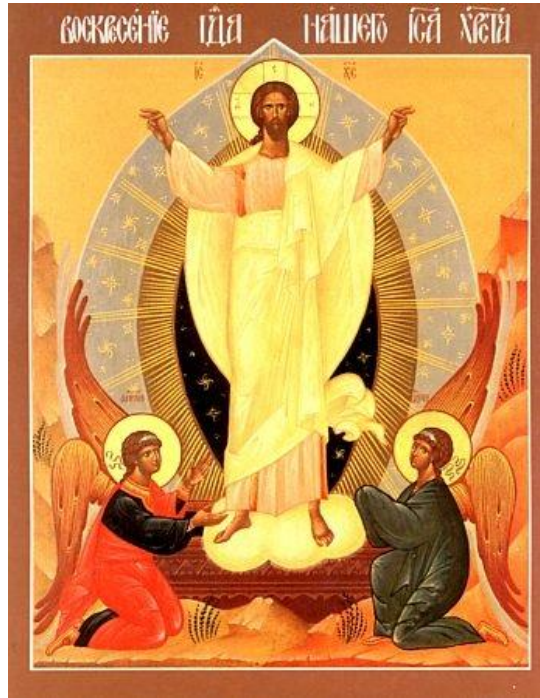
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PROCLAMATION OF THE RESURRECTION

Presider Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

*(The people make a great and joyful noise with BELLS that
CONTINUE RINGING throughout the Gloria.)*



Gloria in excelsis
 Glory to God in the highest,
 on earth.

Hymn S-280
 and peace to God's people

Lord God, heavenly King,
 Almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *(Stop Ringing bells here.)*

Presider 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.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

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

People: I do.

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

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

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Savior.
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.

Presider 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.

Presider 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.

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and
return to God?
People I will, with God's help.

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

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

Presider 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.

Presider 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 Collect of the Day

Presider God 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 forever. **Amen.**

And the Blessing of God Almighty: Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier be with you always.

We'll see you in the morning at 10 a.m. to continue our Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ with
Holy Eucharist.

The Peace

Presider The Peace of Christ be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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