



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH of
St John the Baptist
The Church that Serves

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
April 15, 2017—7 PM

I. THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The People gather on the north patio of the church. In the darkness, fire is kindled, after which the Celebrant addresses the people and blesses the New Fire.

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the New Fire, and the Deacon bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and saying

The light of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

At the third station, the candles of the People are lighted. Please pass the light from one person to the next.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

The Deacon, standing near the Candle, announces the Exsultet, the solemn proclamation of Easter.

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.

The Deacon says

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.**

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.

At the conclusion, the People say

Amen.

II. THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Celebrant says

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 Congregation is seated, and hand candles extinguished.

First Reading — The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

PSALM 136:1-9, 23-26

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
Give thanks to the God of gods, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
Give thanks to the Lord of Lords, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
Who only does great wonders, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
Who by wisdom made the heavens, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
Who spread out the earth upon the waters, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
Who created great lights, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
The sun to rule the day, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
The moon and the stars to govern the night, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
Who remembered us in our low estate, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
And delivered us from our enemies, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
Who gives food to all creatures, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
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.**

Please remain seated

Second Reading

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

EXODUS 14:10-31; 15:20-21

CANTICLE 8—THE SONG OF MOSES

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.
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. **Amen.**

Please remain seated

Third Reading — Salvation offered freely to all

ISAIAH 55:1-11

CANTICLE 9—The First Song of Isaiah

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.

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.

Let us pray.

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.

Please remain seated

Fourth Reading — A new heart and a new spirit

EZEKIEL 36:24-28

PSALM 42:1-7

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.
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.**

III. THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

All who are able stand. The Celebrant addresses the People.

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.

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.**

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.**

IV. THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

The Celebrant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Bells are rung as all join in singing

[Hymnal S-280]

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. 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.

The Celebrant then says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

The Epistle Reading

Romans 6:3-11

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul! *

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while

I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in

any child of earth, *

for there is no help in them.

When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *

and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are they who have the God of

Jacob for their help! *

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and

all that is in them; *

who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *

and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

The Holy Gospel Matthew 28:1-10

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord 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 worshiped 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, Lord Christ.

The Prayers of the People

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Kirk our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John the Baptist and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

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. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

All are invited to receive the Holy Communion at Our Lord's Table.

Presentation Hymn

Hymnal No. 199

Come, ye faithful raise the strain

The Great Thanksgiving

[p. 367]

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

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 him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, But chiefly are we 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

[Hymnal S-130]

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Those who are able remain standing.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John the Baptist and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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,

People and Celebrant

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant and People [Hymnal S-155]

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

The Celebrant says the following Invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Hymn **Hymnal No. 178**
Alleluia No. 1

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Easter Blessing

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. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn **Hymnal No. 208**
The strife is o'er

Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the Assembly

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

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**EASTER SUNDAY EUCHARIST
6, 8, & 10 A.M.**

