



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Great Vigil of Easter

7p

Saturday March 30, 2024

Please help us preserve an atmosphere of quiet reverence before worship. Remember to turn off or silence all phones. Thank you.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The fire is kindled

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 God's Word and celebrating God's Sacraments, we share in God's victory over death.

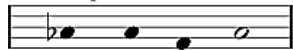
Let us pray.

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 Assisting Clergy bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the nave, pausing three times and saying:

Priest The light of Christ.

People

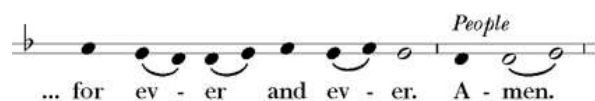
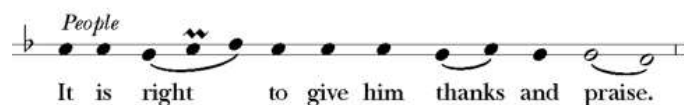
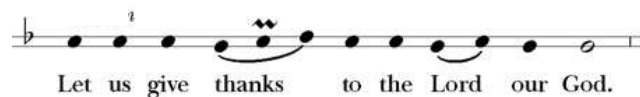
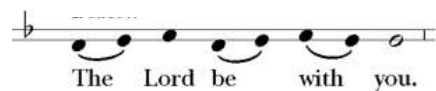
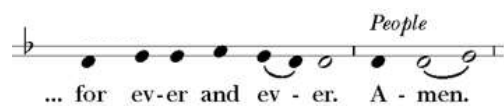


Thanks be to God.

The people enter the darkened church, light their hand candle from the Paschal Candle, and find their places in the pews.

The Exsultet

Midway through the prayer the Cantor signs



The Word of God

The Presider says:

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved God's 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 *The People are seated*

"The Creation"
(from God's Trombones, 1927)

By James Weldon Johnson

Edited with expansive language

Male: And God stepped out on space,
And he looked around and said:
I'm lonely –
I'll make me a world.

And far as the eye of God could see
Darkness covered everything,
Blacker than a hundred midnights
Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled,
And the light broke,
And the darkness rolled up on one side,
And the light stood shining on the other,
And God said: That's good!

Female: Then God reached out and took the light in her hands,
And God rolled the light around in her hands
Until she made the sun;
And she set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.
And the light that was left from making the sun
God gathered it up in a shining ball
And flung it against the darkness,
Spangling the night with the moon and stars.
Then down between
The darkness and the light
She hurled the world;
And God said: That's good!

Male: Then God himself stepped down –
And the sun was on his right hand,
And the moon was on his left;
The stars were clustered about his head,
And the earth was under his feet.
And God walked, and where he trod
His footsteps hollowed the valleys out
And bulged the mountains up.
Then he stopped and looked and saw
That the earth was hot and barren.
So God stepped over to the edge of the world
And he spat out the seven seas –
He batted his eyes, and the lightnings flashed –
He clapped his hands, and the thunders rolled –
And the waters above the earth came down,
The cooling waters came down.

Female: Then the green grass sprouted,
And the little red flowers blossomed,
The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky,
And the oak spread out his arms,
The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground,
And the rivers ran down to the sea;
And God smiled again,
And the rainbow appeared,
And curled itself around her shoulder.
Then God raised her arm and she waved his hand
Over the sea and over the land,

And she said: Bring forth! Bring forth!
And quicker than God could drop her hand,
Fishes and fowls
And beasts and birds
Swam the rivers and the seas
Roamed the forests and the woods
And split the air with their wings.
And God said: That's good!

Male: Then God walked around,
And God looked around
On all that he had made.
He looked at his sun,

Female: And she looked at her moon,

Male: And he looked at his little stars;

Female: She looked on God's world
With all its living things, And God said:

Together: I'm lonely still.

Male: Then God sat down –
On the side of a hill where he could think;
By a deep, wide river he sat down;
With his head in his hands, God thought and thought,
Till he thought: I'll make me a man!

Female: Up from the bed of the river
God scooped the clay;

Male: And by the bank of the river
He kneeled him down;

Female: And there the great God Almighty
Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,

Male: Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night,
Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand;

Female: This Great God,
Like a mother bending over her baby,
Kneeled down in the dust
Toiling over a lump of clay
Till she shaped it in their own image;

Together: Then into it we blew the breath of life,
And you, all of you, became living souls. Amen, and Amen.

Remain seated

Instrumental:
Earth and All Stars

Hymnal 412

Standing

Let us pray.

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 *seated*

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

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the

Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

<i>Lector</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Remain seated

Instrumental:
"Go Down Moses"

LEVAS 228

Standing

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.**

Salvation Offered Freely to All *seated*

Isaiah 55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<i>Lector</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Remain seated

Instrumental:
Jesus, Lover of my soul

Hymnal 699

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.**

The Baptism

Presentation of the Candidate

The Presider then says

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsor

I present William David Mays to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Then the Presider asks the following questions of the Candidate.

Question Do you desire to be baptized?

Answer I do.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

The Presider addresses the congregation, saying

Presider Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in their life in Christ?
People **We will.**

Presider Let us join with he who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Baptismal Covenant

The people stand as they are able

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 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.**

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 the Lord?

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.**

Prayers for the Candidate

The Presider then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open his *heart* to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Presider says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Presider blesses the water, first saying

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.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Baptism

The candidate is presented by name to the Presider who then pours water upon the candidate, saying

William David , I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then the Priest marks the sign of the cross on the forehead saying

William David, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Together, let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

The Presider then says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection,

and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

*The congregation extinguishes their candles if they are still lit.
The candles on the Altar may now be lighted from the Paschal Candle.*

The People standing, the Presider says

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

Gloria

S-280

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

The Presider continues with the Collect

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 for ever. Amen. or this 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.**

Epistle *seated*

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn *standing*

Hymnal 296
Engelberg

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more

Holy Gospel *Remain standing*

Mark 16:1-8

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. 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.

Priest The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

St. John Chrysostom's Easter Homily (c. 400 A.D.)

Seated

Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

During the offertory, please consider the gifts God has given you, and give generously. Your gift will help us continue vital ministries. Our online giving works well, as does our text to give option. Please use this link for online giving.
<https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/5QFR9K/>

Offertory

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain

Hymnal 204
Noël nouvelet

Doxology

Hymnal 143 v5

Representatives of the congregation bring the People's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Presider. The people stand for the Doxology.

O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to thee be every prayer addressed, who art in threefold Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP p. 372

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues

It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God...

...Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing...

Sanctus

S-129
Powell

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love...

...awaiting Christ's coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider & People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Presider continues

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us...

...Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.

Fraction Anthem

S-154
Hurd

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

All who seek God and are drawn to God through Christ are welcome to receive communion. Please remain seated until guided by the ushers to communion. Return to your seat by the side aisles. If for any reason you do not desire to receive communion, you may come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you need gluten-free bread, please ask the priest giving out bread. You are welcome to receive both bread and wine, or just bread. Please use hand sanitizer if you will receive wine.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Let us pray.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn

That Easter day with joy was bright

Hymnal 193
Puer nobis

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP p. 366

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 Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Easter Blessing

Closing Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen today

Hymnal 207
Easter Hymn

Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude