

**The Great Vigil of Easter – The First Service of Easter
Saturday, April 11 at 8pm**

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The service begins outside in the darkness of night as the faithful gather in silence. In kindling new fire and lighting the paschal candle, we are reminded that Christ came as a light shining in darkness (John 1:5). Using fire, candles, words, movement, and music the worshipping community becomes the pilgrim people of God following the “pillar of fire” given to us in Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

THE LIGHTING AND THE BLESSING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH AND THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Light a candle at home and at the end of the Exsultet you may extinguish your candle.

THE EXSULTET: The Easter Proclamation—A fifth-century hymn

Madison Borys, Cantor

Rejoice now, heavenly host 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
re-sound with the praises of your people.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our 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.
Amen.

THE SERVICE OF READINGS

The second part of the vigil consists of a series of readings from the Old and New Testaments. These lessons provide a panoramic view of what God has done for humanity. The readings thus retell our "holy history" as God's children, summarizing the faith into which we are baptized.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

THE STORY OF CREATION

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a
Patrick Citrano, Reader & Liturgist

***HYMN NO. 15, St. 1 & 6**

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam!
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,
And worship God with humble hearts.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER

THE COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND THE EARTH

Genesis 7:5, 11– 18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13
Erin Bogert, Reader & Liturgist

***HYMN NO. 315, St. 1 & 3**

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

NEW DIMENSIONS

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

REFRAIN

God of rainbow, fiery pillar
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
Now and ever, now and evermore.

As we stand, a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village,
might envision wider dreams. **REFRAIN**

PRAYER

ISRAEL’S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10 – 15:1
Patrick Citrano, Reader & Liturgist

ANTHEM

“O Mary Don’t You Weep” *Traditional, arr. Noel A. Piercy*
Paul Salierno, Soloist

PRAYER

***THE GLORIA HYMN NO. 582**

“Glory to God”

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

EPISTLE READING

Romans 6:3-11

Erin Bogert, Reader & Liturgist

***PSALM 114 (Read Responsively)**

LEADER: Hallelujah! When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of
strange speech,

ALL: Judah became God’s sanctuary and Israel God’s dominion.

LEADER: The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

ALL: The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

LEADER: Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

ALL: O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

LEADER: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

ALL: who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a flowing spring.

LEADER: Let us pray: Generous and Patient God, we offer you our praise, our thanks and our
worship. We remember with thanks our heritage as your people of faith, and we ask that
we may be blessed as we seek to be your faithful people every day of our life, and that we
may honor and serve you with our songs and prayers; with awe and reverence; and with
joy and delight.

ALL: Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Madison Borys, Reader

LEADER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 28, verses 1 – 10.

***HYMN NO. 588**

“Alleluia”

Joyful Alleluia

Cantor: Alleluia, Alleluia All: Alleluia, Alleluia

After the reading....

LEADER: The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“Joy in the Morning”

Words & Music by Natalie Sleeth

There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day,
for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day.

There'll be peace and contentment evermore,
there'll be peace and contentment evermore,
ev'ry heart, ev'ry voice on that day will rejoice,
there'll be peace and contentment evermore.

There'll be love and forgiveness ev'rywhere,
there'll be love and forgiveness ev'rywhere,
and the way of the Lord will that day be restored,
there'll be love and forgiveness ev'rywhere.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The image of water giving life – nurturing crops, sustaining life, and cleansing our bodies – cannot be missed in this part of the vigil. Nor is the ability of water to inflict death in drowning overlooked. Water brings both life and death. So also, there is death and life in Baptism, for in Baptism we die to sin and are raised to life. Baptism unites believers to Christ’s death and resurrection.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

RENEWAL OF THE PROMISES MADE AT BAPTISM

RESPONSE: I will, with God’s help.

***THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: In keeping with the guidelines of social distance, let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

THE OFFERING

The offering this evening will go to the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation in honor of former choir member, Lydia Nathans and choir advisors, Robert & Sandra Nathans. Please go to the church website to donate: www.firstprescaldwell.org.

VOLUNTARY AT THE OFFERTORY

“Te Deum”

Marc Antoine Charpentier (1643 – 1704)
arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace & John H. Head

HYMN NO. 232, St. 1, 2, 4

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF THE EUCHARIST

The vigil climaxes in a celebration of the feast of the people of God. The risen Lord invites all to participate in the new life he brings by sharing the feast which he has prepared. We thus look forward to the great Messianic feast of the kingdom of God when the redeemed from every time and place “will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God” (Luke 13.29). The vigil thus celebrates what God has done, is doing, and will do.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

LEADER: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

LEADER: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

LEADER: It is indeed right . . . Therefore with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, praising you forevermore saying:

*HYMN NO. 556

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Sanctus

*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 Lord’s name.
Hosanna in the highest. (Repeat)*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*HYMN NO. 557

“Christ Has Died”

Memorial Acclamation

*Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

LEADER: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...now and forever:

*HYMN NO. 558

“Amen”

Amen

*Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen, amen.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN NO. 603

“Lamb of God”

Agnus Dei

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy, have mercy on us. (Repeat)
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us, O grant us your peace.*

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

The bread is shared.

Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

The cup is shared.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*HYMN NO. 826

“Lift High the Cross”

Crucifer

REFRAIN

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **REFRAIN***

*So shall our song of triumph ever be;
praise to the Crucified for victory. **REFRAIN***

*BLESSING

LEADER: As Christ loves us let us love one another deeply from the heart. Break the bread of new life where the world is still in pain. Christ is risen!

ALL: **He is risen, indeed!**

LEADER: Go in peace.

ALL: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**THE PEALING OF THE BELLS
&
DECORATING OF THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER SUNDAY**

BREAKING THE FAST

*In the early Church, Christians gathered on the afternoon of Holy Saturday to pray and to confer the Sacrament of Baptism on catechumens—converts to Christianity who had spent Lent preparing to be received into the Church. This vigil lasted through the night until dawn on Easter Sunday, when the Alleluia was sung for the first time since the beginning of Lent, and the faithful—including the newly baptized—broke their 40-hour fast by receiving Communion.
Perhaps now is a good time to enjoy a special snack with your family.*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Don Brown
Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy
Noel A. Piercy
Timpani & Percussion: Jesse Gerbasi
Trumpet: James De La Garza
Technical Assistance: Ray Liptak, Rob Thiemann
Westminster Choir Member: Madison Borys

Westminster Choir Alums

Erin Bogert
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