

Easter Vigil

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 | 8 PM

Let no one fear death, for the savior's death has set us free. He who was held prisoner by death has annihilated it. By descending into death, he made death captive. He angered it when it tasted of his flesh. Isaiah saw this, and he cried:

Death was angered when it encountered you in the lower regions.
It was angered, for it was defeated.
It was angered, for it was mocked.
It was angered, for it was abolished.
It was angered, for it was overthrown.
It was angered, for it was bound in chains.
It received a body and it met God face to face.
It took earth and encountered heaven.
It took that which is seen and fell upon the unseen.
O Death, where is your sting?
O Grave, where is your victory?
Christ is risen and you are overthrown.
Christ is risen and the devils have fallen.
Christ is risen and the angels rejoice.
Christ is risen and life reigns.
Christ is risen and not one dead remains in the grave.

For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, and to him be glory and honor, even to eternity. Amen.

John Chrysostom (344–407)

Easter Vigil

Weather permitting, we gather in the courtyard on University Avenue, where candles will be distributed.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the Word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share his triumph over sin and death, and await his coming again in glory.

LIGHTING THE NEW FIRE

Let us pray.

Lord of all eternity, God of light and life: Bless, we pray, this new fire that by its light we may walk in the brightness of Christ's new and risen life. Enlighten, we pray, the whole world with the light of Christ, and grant that at the last we might come into your eternal presence at the feast of our crucified and risen Lord, the glorious Son of righteousness. In his name we pray.

Amen.

LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The presiding minister traces the inscription on the paschal candle.

Christ, yesterday and today,	<i>Trace the sign of the cross.</i>
the beginning and the ending.	<i>Trace the Greek letters Alpha and Omega.</i>
To Christ belongs all time	<i>Trace the first numeral at the upper left.</i>
and all the ages;	<i>Trace the second numeral at the upper right.</i>
to Christ belongs glory and dominion	<i>Trace the third numeral at the lower left.</i>
now and forever.	<i>Trace the fourth numeral at the lower right.</i>

Amen.

*The presiding minister lights the paschal candle, and says:
The light of Christ, rising in glory, drive out the darkness of our hearts and minds.*

PROCESSION

The procession begins, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle. During the procession, light from the paschal candle is passed. As the procession begins, the assisting minister raises the candle and begins the Lumen Christi:



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The assisting minister lifts the paschal candle and sings on a higher tone:



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The assisting minister takes the paschal candle to its stand, lifts it high and sings on a still higher tone:



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Rejoice now all heavenly choirs of angels and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and, for the victory of so great a King, sound the trumpet of salvation. Exult, also, O earth, enlightened with such radiance; and, made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal King, know that the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world. Be glad, also, O mother Church, clothed with the brightness of such a light, and let this house resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples. Wherefore, dearly beloved, who stand in the clarity of this bright and holy light, join with me, I ask you, in praising the lovingkindness of almighty God; through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

A The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.
 A Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should with full devotion of heart and mind and voice praise the invisible God, the Father Almighty, and his only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ; who paid for us the debt of Adam to the eternal Father, and who by his precious blood redeemed us from the bondage to the ancient sin. For this is indeed the Paschal Feast in which the true lamb is slain, by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy. This is the night in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, from the land of Egypt; and led them dry-shod through the Red Sea. This, indeed, is the night in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness. This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness. This is the night in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. For it would have profited us nothing to be born had we not also been redeemed. O, how wonderful the condescension of your lovingkindness! O, how in estimable the goodness of your love, that to redeem a slave you delivered up your Son! O necessary sin of Adam that is wiped away by the death of Christ! O happy fault that was worthy to have so great a Redeemer! O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell! This is the night of which it is written: "and the night is as clear as the day;" and, "then shall my night be turned into day." The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness; washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride.

The assisting minister will fix five grains of incense in the candle.

Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O holy Father, this evening sacrifice of praise; which the Church lays before you in the solemn offering of the candle. We

sing the glories of this pillar of fire, the brightness of which is not diminished, even when its light is divided and borrowed. For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants, have made for the substance of this candle. O night truly blessed, in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine. We, therefore, pray to you, O Lord, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of this night and be mingled with the lights of heaven. May he who is the morning star find it burning—that morning star which never sets, that morning star which, rising again from the grave, faithfully sheds light on all the human race. And we pray, O Lord, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection your whole Church, giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing; through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation extinguishes their candles and is seated.

Word

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1–1–2:4a

Silence for meditation

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our death, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

SECOND READING Exodus 14:10–31, 15:20–21

RESPONSE Cantemus Domino: Song of Moses and Miriam (*Sung by the choir*)

Silence for meditation

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THIRD READING Isaiah 55:1–11

Silence for meditation

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FOURTH READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

RESPONSE Psalm 143 (*Sung by the choir*)

Silence for meditation

Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

FIFTH READING Daniel 3:1-29

RESPONSE Benedicite, omnia opera: All You Works of the Lord (*Sung by the choir*)
The congregation is invited to join in singing “Praise Him and Magnify Him Forever” as indicated.

Holy Baptism

THE EXHORTATION

Dear beloved in Christ: In this most sacred night, Holy Mother Church commemorates the death and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ. In return for his great love, she lovingly keeps watch with him. And looking forward to his glorious resurrection, she rejoices with an exceeding joy.

But, as the Apostle teaches us, we have by baptism been buried with Christ into death. As Christ, then, has risen from the dead, so we too must walk now in newness of life. For we know that our old self has been crucified with Christ, that we may no longer be slaves to sin, but are to live for God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Therefore, my beloved, having completed the Lenten observance, let us now proceed to rejoice in the promises of Holy Baptism.

Sponsors: We present Avery Mysicka for baptism.

Sponsors: We present Juliette Butler for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Candidates: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Avery and Juliette and pray for them in their new lives in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

We will, with God's help.

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

We will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

We will, with God's help.

Will you seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

We will, with God's help.

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

We will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize. 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, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family.

You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth.

In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Avery and Juliette, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Avery and Juliette with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Avery and Juliette, children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Now may the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: make you perfect in every good work to do God's will; working in you that which is well pleasing; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Repeat three times.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE #367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (*Stanza 3 sung by choir*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord of light and life, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. By the Spirit's baptismal gift, renew your holy church in true and faithful service that your people may shine with Christ, the Light of the world who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please sit.

LESSON 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.

Please stand.

GOSPEL PROCESSION #382 Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! (*Stanzas 1–2*)

HOLY GOSPEL John 20:1–18



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN #382 Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! (Stanzas 3-4)

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Meal

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy... until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore... now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER *(See inside back cover)*

Please sit.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. We receive the Body of Christ (bread) in our open hands. Christ is fully present in both bread and cup. The Blood of Christ (wine) may be received in one of two ways: by drinking from the chalice or by dipping the bread into the chalice (intinction). Gluten-free bread is available on request.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION Christ the Lord is Risen Again! | John Rutter

Christ the Lord is ris'n again;

Christ has broken death's strong chain.

Hark, the angels shout for joy,
singing evermore on high:

Hallelujah!

He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb today.

We too sing for joy and say:
Hallelujah!

He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us, and hears our cry:
Hallelujah!

He whose path no records tell

has descended into hell;

he the strong man armed has bound
and in highest heav'n is crowned.

Hallelujah!

Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiv'n,
how we too may enter heav'n,
Hallelujah!

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION #363 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

RECESSATIONAL HYMN #385 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
Please stand and face the cross as the procession passes to the rear of the nave.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE Toccata from *Organ Symphony No. 5* | Charles-Marie Widor

All are invited to a festive reception in the gathering hall by the courtyard entrance.