

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
Church of the Good Shepherd

We begin outside around the fire. The church is in darkness.

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries; we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Let us pray.

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the Light of the world. Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to him, and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age for ever. May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness within our hearts and minds! **Amen.**

*The Pascal Candle is lit from the new fire. The people process to the nave of the church and two times along the celebrant proclaims: **The Light of Christ!** To which the people respond:*

***Thanks be to God!** Following the light the people enter the nave and find a seat near the front, as choir and ministers find their seats in the chancel. The celebrant proclaims from the front of the church.*

Celebrant: The Light of Christ!
People: Thanks be to God!

When the pascal candle is placed on its stand the lights come on and we sing the opening hymn.

The Power of the Cross (CLH#166)

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary;
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then,
Nailed to the cross of wood

*This the power of the cross;
Christ became sin for us;
took the blame, bore the wrath.
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh to see the pain written on your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Every bitter thought, every evil deed,
Crowning your blood stained brow. Chorus

Now the day light flees, now the ground beneath
Quakes as its maker bows his head,
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
“Finished!” the victory cry. Chorus

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free;
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live;
Won through your selfless love. Chorus

*Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend - 2004
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Celebrant: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of
angels! Exult, all creation around God's
throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever! Rejoice, O
Mother Church! Exult in glory! The
risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this
place resound with joy, echoing the
mighty song of all God's people!

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

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

Celebrant: It is truly right that with full hearts and
minds and voices we should praise the
unseen God, the all powerful Father, and
his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For
Christ has ransomed us with his blood,

and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to
our eternal Father!

This is our passover feast, when Christ,
the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood
consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night when first you saved
our forebears: you freed the people of
Israel from their slavery and led them
dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when Christians
everywhere, washed clean of sin and
freed from all defilement, are restored to
grace and grow together in holiness.

This is the night when Jesus Christ
broke the chains of death and rose
triumphant from the grave.

Father, how wonderful your care for us!
How boundless your merciful love! To
ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

The power of this holy night dispels all
evil, washes guilt away, restores lost
innocence, brings mourners joy.

Night truly blessed when heaven is
wedded to earth and we are reconciled
with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Accept this Easter candle. May it always dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Lesson Exodus 14:10-15:21

Psalm 114

Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
**Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel his dominion.**

The sea beheld it and fled;

Jordan turned and went back.

**The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?

O Jordan, that you turned back?

**You mountains, that you skipped like rams?
you little hills like young sheep?**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob.

**Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

Second Lesson Ezekiel 37:1-14

Days of Elijah (MP 1012)

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the word of the Lord;
And these are the days of Your servant, Moses,
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trials,
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still we are the voice in the desert, crying,
"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!"

*Behold, he comes; Riding on the clouds,
Shining like the Sun, At the trumpet-call;
Lift your voice! It the year of jubilee,
Out of Zion's hill salvation comes!*

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of your servant, David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white as the world,
And we are the labourers in the vineyard,
Declaring the Word of the Lord!

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Gospel Lesson Luke 24:1-12

Homily: Waiting for Our Eyes to Catch Up

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant: Dear friends, through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected 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 neighbour 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.

Celebrant: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

People: I will, with God's help.

Making the Church Ready & Offertory Solo

During this time the church is decorated and made ready for Easter Sunday. During the Offertory the bread and wine are brought forward, the Lord's Table is set, and the elements and vessels put in place.

Easter Vigil Prayers

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.

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.

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain (CP 215)

Dismissal & Ringing of the Bell

Additional Readings and Prayers for Home Vigil

For those who wish to keep watch this night you may use these readings and prayers as your guide. For those who will sleep tonight but may find yourself awakened, I recommend using one of the Easter Vigil prayers or the readings and prayer closest to the time that you are awake.

1. Genesis 1.1–2.4a & Psalm 136 [10:00 PM]

Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation, by which in the fullness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

2. Genesis 7.1–5, 11–18; 8.6–18; 9.8–13 & Psalm 46 [11:00 PM]

Faithful God, you have placed the rainbow in the skies as the sign of your covenant with all living things. May we who are saved through water and the Spirit, worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. Genesis 22.1–18 & Psalm 16 [12:00 AM]

God and Father of all who believe in you, you promised Abraham that he would become the father of all nations, and through the death and resurrection of Christ you fulfil that promise; everywhere throughout the world you increase your

chosen people. May we respond to your call by joyfully accepting your invitation to the new life of grace. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

4. Exodus 14.10–31 & Exodus 15.1–21 [1:00 AM]

God of steadfast love, your 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, 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. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5. Isaiah 54.5–14 & Psalm 30 [2:00 AM]

O God, you led your ancient people in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Grant that we who serve you now on earth, may come to the joy of that heavenly Jerusalem, where you wipe away all tears, and where your saints for ever sing your praise. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

6. Isaiah 55.1–11 & Isaiah 12.2–6 [3:00 AM]

O God, by the power of your Word you have created all things, and by your Spirit you renew the earth. Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

7. Proverbs 8.1-21 & Psalm 19 [4:00 AM]

Creator of the universe, Source of all light, teach us to hold fast to the ways of wisdom, that we may live for ever in the radiance of your glory. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

8. Ezekiel 36.24-28 & Psalm 42-43 [5:00 AM]

Almighty and everlasting God, in the paschal mystery you established the new covenant of reconciliation. Grant that all who are born again in baptism may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

9. Ezekiel 37.1-14 & Psalm 143 [6:00 AM]

Living 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 power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

10. Zephaniah 3.14-20 & Psalm 98 [7:00 AM]

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery. By the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.