



from DARKNESS into
Light

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Lighting of the Easter Candle

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 his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light. We center our thoughts now on Jesus, the Light of the World. Clear our minds so that we may approach this time with pure minds. We praise you that you have brought light to our

darkness and we look forward to the time when we shall be gather with your Son in that eternal place where there is no need for any other light than the light of Jesus Christ. In the name of the one who is Light. Amen.

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega. All time and all ages belong to Christ to whom be glory and sovereignty through every age for ever. Amen.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, illumine our hearts and minds.

The Easter Candle is lit.

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Each participant lights a candle.

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

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

Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise you the eternal God, and your First-born, our Savior Jesus Christ.

For Christ is the true passover lamb who at this feast has set your faithful people free.

This is the night when you saved the people of Israel from their slavery in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when the pillar of fire brought light to your wandering people.

This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from gloom, and are restored to grace, and grow together in fullness of life.

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

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

Therefore, Holy God, in the joy of this night, accept our evening sacrifice of praise, your church's solemn offering.

Christ is now alive and glorified with you for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray together:

God, we welcome this light into our darkness. We praise you for bringing this great light into our lives, through Jesus Christ your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and unity.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy God and Father, accept our worship. We are reminded again of the light of Christ that drives away all darkness. We honor Christ, the Morning

Star, who gives light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Let us now 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 Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:2
English Standard Version (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalms 136:1-9
New International Version (NIV)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures forever.

to him who alone does great wonders,
His love endures forever.

who by his understanding made the heavens,
His love endures forever.

who spread out the earth upon the waters,
His love endures forever.

who made the great lights—
His love endures forever.

the sun to govern the day,
His love endures forever.

the moon and stars to govern the night;
His love endures forever.

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.*

The Story of the Flood

Genesis 7:1-10
English Standard Version (ESV)

Genesis 8:6-12
English Standard Version (ESV)

Genesis 9:8-13
English Standard Version (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46
English Standard Version (ESV)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

**though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.**

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

**He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.**

“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Story of Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22:1-18

English Standard Version (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 16

New Century Version (NCV)

Protect me, God,
because I trust in you.

**I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord.
Every good thing I have comes from you."**

As for the godly people in the world,
they are the wonderful ones I enjoy.

But those who turn to idols
will have much pain.
I will not offer blood to those idols
or even speak their names.

**No, the Lord is all I need.
He takes care of me.**

My share in life has been pleasant;
my part has been beautiful.

**I praise the Lord because he advises me.
Even at night, I feel his leading.**

**I keep the Lord before me always.
Because he is close by my side,
I will not be hurt.**

So I rejoice and am glad.
Even my body has hope,

because you will not leave me in the grave.
You will not let your holy one rot.

**You will teach me how to live a holy life.
Being with you will fill me with joy;
at your right hand I will find pleasure forever.**

Let us pray. (Silence)

**God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name
multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number
of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled
your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. *Amen.***

The Story of Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

***Exodus 14:10-31
New Century Version (NCV)***

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Exodus 15:1-21
New Century Version (NCV)
The Song of Moses

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:
“I will sing to the Lord,
because he is worthy of great honor.
He has thrown the horse and its rider
into the sea.

**The Lord gives me strength and makes me sing;
he has saved me.
He is my God,
and I will praise him.
He is the God of my ancestors,
and I will honor him.**

**The Lord is a warrior;
the Lord is his name.**

The chariots and soldiers of the king of Egypt
he has thrown into the sea.
The king's best officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.

**The deep waters covered them,
and they sank to the bottom like a rock.**

Your right hand, Lord,
is amazingly strong.
Lord, your right hand
broke the enemy to pieces.

**In your great victory
you destroyed those who were against you.
Your anger destroyed them,
like fire burning straw.**

Just a blast of your breath,
and the waters piled up.
The moving water stood like a wall;
the deep waters became solid in the middle of the sea.

“The enemy bragged,
‘I’ll chase them and catch them.
I’ll take all their riches;
I’ll take all I want.
I’ll pull out my sword,
and my hand will destroy them.’

**But you blew on them with your breath
and covered them with the sea.
They sank like lead
in the raging water.**

“Are there any gods like you, Lord?
There are no gods like you.
You are wonderfully holy,
amazingly powerful,
a worker of miracles.

You reached out with your right hand,
and the earth swallowed our enemies.

**You keep your loving promise
and lead the people you have saved.
With your strength you will guide them
to your holy place.**

“The other nations will hear this and tremble with fear;
terror will take hold of the Philistines.

The leaders of the tribes of Edom will be very frightened;
the powerful men of Moab will shake with fear;
the people of Canaan will lose all their courage.

Terror and horror will fall on them.

When they see your strength,
they will be as still as a rock.

They will be still until your people pass by, Lord.

They will be still until the people you have taken as your own pass by.

**You will lead your people and place them
on your very own mountain,
the place that you, Lord, made for yourself to live,
the temple, Lord, that your hands have made.**

The Lord will be king forever!"

The horses, chariot drivers, and chariots of the king of Egypt went into the sea, and the Lord covered them with water from the sea. But the Israelites walked through the sea on dry land. Then Aaron's sister Miriam, a prophetess, took a tambourine in her hand. All the women followed her, playing tambourines and dancing. Miriam told them:

**"Sing to the Lord,
because he is worthy of great honor;
he has thrown the horse and its rider
into the sea."**

Let us pray. (Silence)

**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 to All

Isaiah 55:6-11

New Century Version (NCV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 42:1-7

New International Version (NIV)

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?**

My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

**These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty One[d]
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.**

Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

My soul is downcast within me;
therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan,
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

**Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.**

Let us pray. (Silence)

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.*

A New Heart and A New Spirit

***Ezekiel 36:24-28
English Standard Version (ESV)***

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Let us pray. (Silence)

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.*

The Gathering of God's People

Zephaniah 3:17

New International Version (NIV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 98

English Standard Version (ESV)

Oh sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

**The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!

**Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together**

before the Lord, for he comes
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Let us pray. (Silence)

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery;; 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. *Amen.*

Through the mystery of God, 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 Christ as our Lord and to serve God faithfully in his holy church.

The Renewal of Our Baptismal Vows

Romans 6:3-11
New International Version (NIV)

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old

self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Is there anyone who wishes to receive Baptism tonight?

The Baptismal Covenant

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

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, 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

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.*

Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give 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 a land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, Jesus 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 of 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.

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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: Help us to die daily to sin, so that we may evermore live with you in the joy of his resurrection. 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 Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, Our Risen Savior.

Sharing of the Lord's Supper

Now may the God of peace, who brought the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

