



The Great Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☙ Richmond, Virginia

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

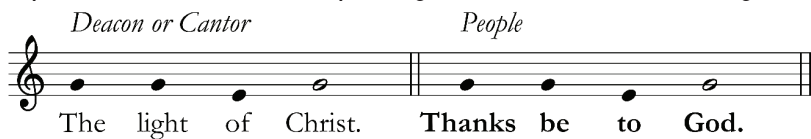
The people gather outside at the Three Chopt entrance to the church. Fire is kindled. All face the new fire.

Celebrant

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: 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.**

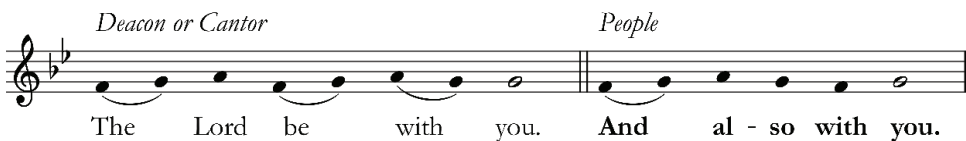
The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly-kindled fire. The Deacon, bearing the Paschal Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times as the following is sung:



After the Paschal Candle is placed in its stand, candles are lit throughout the congregation, as acolytes carry a flame from the Paschal Candle down the center aisle. The Cantor, standing near the Paschal Candle, sings the following Proclamation of the Resurrection, known as the Exsultet, as all remain standing.

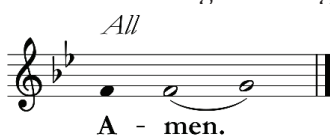
**Deacon
or Cantor**

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts, 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, resound with the praises of your people.



**Deacon
or Cantor**

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.



The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The First Lesson Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea *Please sit.* Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21

Canticle The Song of Moses and Miriam *Sung by the choir.* Plainsong

Collect

Celebrant Let us pray. *Please stand; a period of silence is kept.*

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.**

The Second Lesson Salvation offered freely to all *Please sit.* Isaiah 55:1-11

Canticle The First Song of Isaiah *Sung by the choir.* Plainsong

Collect

Celebrant Let us pray. *Please stand; a period of silence is kept.*

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 Third Lesson A new heart and a new spirit *Please sit.* Ezekiel 36:24-28

Canticle *Sicut cervus* (Psalm 42) *Sung by the choir.* Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
As the deer longs for the waterbrooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.

Collect

Celebrant Let us pray. *Please stand; a period of silence is kept.*

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.**

The Sermon The Easter Sermon of St. John Chrysostom *Please remain standing.* read by The Rev. Cate Anthony

The First Eucharist of Easter

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

The organ and bells sound, the altar lights are lit, and the people extinguish their candles and sing the following hymn.



1. God's Pas - chal Lamb is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore with
2. Now Christ is raised and will not die a - gain; death has no
3. In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead: though A - dam's



joy we keep the Eas - ter feast; for - sak - ing sin, we
more do - min - ion o - ver him; through him we die to
sin had doomed all flesh to die, in Christ's new life shall



share the bread of truth.
sin and live to God. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
all be made a - live.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

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 forever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Romans 6:3-11 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Hymn 178 Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord *Sung by all, standing.*

Alleluia No. 1

The Gospel Mark 16:1-8 *Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel procession remains at the font for the Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

Celebrant Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ in 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 God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

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
People 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.

Celebrant
People 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.

Celebrant
People Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant
People Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant
People Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant
People Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant
People Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant 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.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Please remain standing and face the font.

Prayer Book, page 306

Celebrant
People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Celebrant
People Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant 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 of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

Celebrant 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.**

Asperging the Congregation

The clergy sprinkle the congregation with holy water from the font—an act called asperging—in remembrance of our baptismal identity in Christ and our commission for ministry to the world.

Music During the Asperging Alleluia

Eric Whitacre

The Peace

Prayer Book, page 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts to sustain God's work in the world. If you wish to make your offering electronically, please scan the QR code.



Offertory Anthem Most glorious Lord of life
Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day,
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin:
And having harrowed hell, didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win:
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
And grant that we for whom thou diddest die,
Being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,

Gary Davison; text: Edmund Spenser
May live for ever in felicity.
And that thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love thee for the same again:
And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,
With love may one another entertain.
So let us love, dear love, like as we ought,
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

At the Presentation Sung by all, standing.

Lasst uns erfreuen

The fruits of our labor are presented to God, along with gifts for our food ministry.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. O praise him; O praise him;

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

Prayer Book, page 367

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *Sung by all.* Richard Proulx

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high- est.

The people remain standing.

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with blessed Stephen, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



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

Celebrant and People

Prayer Book, page 364

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

David Hurd

Cantor:
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

All:
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

At the Communion of the People

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the high altar or in one of the side chapels (kneeling or standing). The altar also extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just let an usher know. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to "intinct" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups, available at all stations. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest.

Music at Communion

Anthem

Rise up, my love

Sung by the choir.

Healey Willan

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away;
for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
the flowers appear upon the earth;
the time of the singing of birds is come;
arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Hymn 180 He is risen *Sung by all, seated.*

Hymn 174 At the Lamb's high feast we sing *Sung by all, seated.*

*Unser Herrscher
Salzburg*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *Please stand.*

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

Prayer Book, page 366

The Blessing *The Celebrant pronounces God's blessing.*

Hymn 207 Jesus Christ is risen today *Sung by all, standing.*

Easter Hymn

The Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Closing Voluntary Final, from Symphony no. 1

Louis Vierne



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. William S. Stanley; **DEACON:** The Rev. John W.A. Jenkins; **SUBDEACON:** Anne Townsend;
PREACHER: The Rev. Cate Anthony; **READERS:** Sarah Bartenstein, Sherlyn Dibble, Christopher Lindbloom, Ruddy Rose; **ASSISTING PRIEST:** The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Susan Bell, Guy Frank, Pat Githens, Cary Wyatt;
MUSICIANS: Sanctuary, Brent te Velde, *director and organ*; **VERGERS:** Dave Davis, Ben Emerson

Easter Day at St. Stephen's

7:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One +

9:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, *followed by reception* *+ (two services: one in main church, one in Palmer Hall)

Easter Egg Hunt for children at the conclusion of both 9 a.m. services; children and parents meet on sidewalk on

Grove Avenue side; please bring your own basket

No Christian formation hour on Easter Day

11:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, *followed by reception* *+

5:30 p.m., Celtic Evensong and Communion *+

6:30 p.m., Sunday Community Supper

8:00 p.m., Compline +

**child care available +service will be livestreamed*

On Easter Day, additional parking will be available at St. Catherine's School on Grove Avenue across from the church, but please do not park in spaces marked "Resident."

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