

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Rev. Freda Marie S. Brown
The Rev. Rebecca Ogus
The Rev. M. Cristina Paglinauan
The Rev. David J. Ware

Robert Chrystal – Faith@Five Music Director

Faith@Five

8:00 P.M. SERVICE

APRIL 3, 2021

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The people gather in darkness in the Columbarium where the fire is kindled, after which the Celebrant addresses the people.

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 people are led in procession by the Candle, passing the Paschal flame to one another, pausing three times while singing or saying

Celebrant The light of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

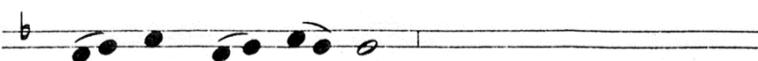
The people gather in the courtyard and remain standing. The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand. A Priest standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet as follows

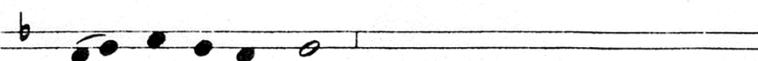
Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

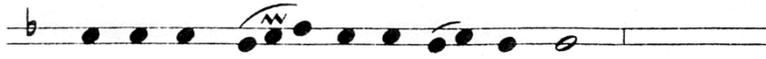
Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*


Priest The Lord be with you.


People And al - so with you.



Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



People It is right to give him 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.

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 concord.

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

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 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 our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The people are seated.

THE STORY OF CREATION

(from God's Trombones, by James Weldon Johnson)

And God stepped out on space,
And he looked around and said: "I'm lonely -- I'll make me a world."

And far as the eye of God could see Darkness covered everything, blacker than a hundred midnights down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled, and the light broke, and the darkness rolled up on one side, and the light stood shining on the other, and God said: "That's good!"

Then God reached out and took the light in his hands, and God rolled the light around in his hands

Until he made the sun; and he set that sun a-blazing in the heavens. And the light that was left from making the sun God gathered it up in a shining ball and flung it against the darkness, spangling the night with the moon and stars. Then down between the darkness and the light he hurled the world; And God said: "That's good!"

Then God himself stepped down -- and the sun was on his right hand, and the moon was on his left; the stars were clustered about his head, and the earth was under his feet. And God walked, and where he trod his footsteps hollowed the valleys out and bulged the mountains up.

Then he stopped and looked and saw that the earth was hot and barren. So God stepped over to the edge of the world and he spat out the seven seas -- he batted his eyes, and the lightnings flashed -- he clapped his hands, and the thunders rolled -- and the waters above the earth came down, the cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted, and the little red flowers blossomed,

The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky, and the oak spread out his arms, the lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground, and the rivers ran down to the sea; and God smiled again, and the rainbow appeared, and curled itself around his shoulder.

Then God raised his arm and he waved his hand over the sea and over the land, and he said: "Bring forth! Bring forth!" And quicker than God could drop his hand, fishes and fowls and beasts and birds swam the rivers and the seas, roamed the forests and the woods, and split the air with their wings. And God said: "That's good!"

Then God walked around, and God looked around on all that he had made. He looked at his sun, and he looked at his moon, and he looked at his little stars; he looked on his world with all its living things, And God said: "I'm lonely still."

Then God sat down -- on the side of a hill where he could think;

By a deep, wide river he sat down; with his head in his hands, God thought and thought, till he thought: "I'll make me a man!"

Up from the bed of the river God scooped the clay; and by the bank of the river he kneeled him down; and there the great God Almighty Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky, Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night, Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand; this Great God (like a Mama bending over her baby), toiling over a lump of clay till he shaped it in his own image;

Then into it he blew the breath of life, and man became a living soul.
Amen. Amen.

All stand.

SONG: "The Lord is My Light" (J. Berthier, *may be sung as a round*)

All sing.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with two first endings marked '1.' and '2.'. The lyrics are: "The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion: in". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "God I trust, in God I trust." The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 people are seated.

THE EXODUS

(from *God's Trombones*, by James Weldon Johnson)

And God said to Moses: I've seen the awful suffering of my people down in Egypt. I've watched their hard oppressors, their overseers and drivers; the groans of my people have filled my ears and I can't stand it no longer; so I'm come down to deliver them out of the land of Egypt, and I will bring them out of that land into the land of Canaan; therefore, Moses, go down, go down into Egypt, and tell Old Pharaoh to let my people go....

And Pharaoh called his generals, and the generals called the captains, and the captains called the soldiers. And they hitched up all the chariots, six hundred chosen chariots of war, and twenty-four hundred horses. And the chariots all were full of men, with swords and shields and shiny spears and battle bows and arrows. And Pharaoh and his army pursued the Hebrew Children to the edge of the Red Sea.

Now, the Children of Israel, looking back, saw Pharaoh's army coming. And the rumble of the chariots was like a thunder storm, and the whirring of the wheels was like a rushing wind, and the dust from the horses made a cloud that darked the day, and the glittering of the spears was like lightnings in the night.

And the Children of Israel all lost faith, the children of Israel all lost hope; deep Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh's host behind. And they mumbled and grumbled among themselves: "Were there no graves in Egypt?" And they wailed aloud to Moses and said: "Slavery in Egypt was better than to come to die here in this wilderness."

But Moses said: "Stand still! Stand still! And see the Lord's salvation. For the Lord God of Israel will not forsake his people. The Lord will break the chariots, the Lord will break the horsemen, he'll break great Egypt's sword and shield, the battle bows and arrows; this day he'll make proud Pharaoh know who is the God of Israel.

And Moses lifted up his rod over the Red Sea; and God with a blast of his nostrils blew the waters apart, and the waves rolled back and stood up in a pile, and left a path through the middle of the sea dry as the sands of the desert. And the Children of Israel all crossed over on to the other side.

All stand.

HYMN: "Wade in the Water" (*Spiritual*)

All sing.

REFRAIN:

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,
Wade in the wa - ter, God's gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter.

The musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first line of the refrain is: "Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,". The second line is: "Wade in the wa - ter, God's gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter." The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together.

VERSES: *The People respond with "God's gonna trouble the water."*

God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

The musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The melody consists of quarter notes and rests, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are: "God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter."

(1) (*Leader*) See that host all dressed in white, (*People*) **God's gonna trouble the water.**
(*Leader*) The leader looks like the Israelite, (*People*) **God's gonna trouble the water.**

REFRAIN.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

Please stand.

Gospeller 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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY

The Rev. David J. Ware

The Celebrant addresses the people with these words. All stand.

Through the Paschal mystery, 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 practices 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.

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 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 the 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 neighbor 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 care for all of God's creation as God cares for you?

People **I will, with God's help.**

The Celebrant blesses the water.

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

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.

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

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.**

The Clergy asperge the people.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Adapted from Intercessions for the Christian People, Gail Ramshaw.

Priest On this holy night of resurrection and joy, let us pray for the church and world, saying:
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Intercessor O God, we give thanks for the goodness of creation, for the victory of resurrection, and for the grace of redemption. We praise you for leading us from darkness into light, and for bringing us through the waters of death into new life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That the church throughout our world, all celebrating your resurrection with joy, may bring the light of Christ into the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For the newly baptized throughout the church, buried and raised with Christ, and all who have renewed their baptismal vows, may grow in trust and hope. Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That our community, renewed this night through word and sacrament, may care for one another in love that surpasses understanding. Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That the people of the world, remembering the source of creation, may care for the waters of the earth and for all living things, and recall that we are all connected to the One who created us all. Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That the leaders of nations, knowing their power, may bring peace and justice to the world. We give thanks for Baltimore Cease Fire and Safe Streets Baltimore, and all those who work for peace in our city. Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That all those who have commended themselves to us for any need, and for all who suffer, recalling the mystery of Christ crucified and risen, may be comforted. Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That all who have departed from this life may rest in peace eternal and rise in the glory of Christ's everlasting light. Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant In joy and faith and hope, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy of God, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another in the name of the risen Christ. After a brief period has passed, the People process into the church ringing bells and using noisemakers to raise a loud shout to God, following the Paschal Candle and the bell cross. The People are invited to stand at designated places around the altar.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the service you are invited to make your way outside into the courtyard for the voluntary and a time of fellowship. Baskets for the Offering are located near the main parish building doors.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER D

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord is with you.
People **And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

Celebrant and People, ringing bells,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People **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.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

THE COMMUNION

The sacrament is brought to the people.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,**

**and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant The God of peace, who 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 his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
***People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

VOLUNTARY: *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord*

Virtual Choir Audio Mix

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