

Holy SATURDAY



**Easter Vigil
April 16, 2022**

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, celebrate our new life at the font, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.



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GATHERING *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

All gather around the new fire.

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.

Let us pray.

Eternal God . . . through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The presiding minister traces the inscription on the paschal candle. Jesus is not about the past, and the Three Days are not about recalling events of 2,000 years ago. The date inscribed on the candle is not, for example, 33, but 2022. Christ is today, his resurrection now.

Christ, yesterday and today, ✠
the beginning and the ending. A Ω
To Christ belongs all time 2
and all the ages; 0
to Christ belongs glory and dominion 2
now and forever. 2

Amen.

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

PROCESSION

The minister lifts the candle so that all may see it. The procession into the sanctuary begins, led by the paschal candle.

The minister proclaims the light of Christ three times, and we respond singing:

The light of Christ!

Thanks be to God!

The paschal candle is placed in its stand. Just as the cross has symbolized for us the death of Christ, so now the paschal candle stands for the risen Christ.

As we move into the sanctuary, you may be seated.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Rejoice, now, all heav'nly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen! Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.

**Sung: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king! Christ had conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.

Sung: In him there is no darkness at all.....

Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

Sung: In him there is no darkness at all.....

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .

When you hear the leader sing, "This is the night," you echo back, "This is the night!"

We therefore pray to you, O God . . . through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

A brief silence is kept.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song. Tonight's scripture readings are from The Message translation of The Bible.*

STORIES OF GOD'S SALVATION

The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1—2:3

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the beginning of life for us all. Just as the creator God forms the earth out of chaotic waters and shines light onto primeval darkness, so the resurrection of Christ pulls us from death through baptism into fruitful life with all the good earth and enlightens our life in Christ.

Sung Response

I Love to Tell the Story, verse 1 ELW #661

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

Prayer

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 humanity, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Silent Reflection

The Story of the Exodus

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

In this archetypal story, God vanquishes evil and liberates the oppressed. By the resurrection, God liberates us from slavery to sin and brings us through the waters of baptism to safety.

Sung Response

I Love to Tell the Story, verse 2 ELW #661

I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word.

Refrain: I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

Prayer

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 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 Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Silent Reflection

The Story of the Valley of Dry Bones

from Ezekiel 37:1-14

God, the animator of life, breathes into us, without which we are merely piles of bones. We now live, empowered by the Spirit of God.

Sung Response

I Love to Tell the Story, verse 3 ELW #661

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain: I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

Prayer

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 Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Silent Reflection

The Story of Jonah

Jonah 1:1-2:1

"For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40) Jesus uses the metaphor of Jonah to describe his death and resurrection. So do we.

Sung Response

from Jonah 2:1-9 **Echo after the leader, line by line:**

Jonah prayed
from the belly of the fish,
saying, "Thank you, God;
you saved me from death.

You cast me
to the middle of the sea;
and the waves rose
and the billows covered me.

"As my life was ebbing away
I remembered you, my God;
I lifted up my prayer,
and you answered me.

"With grateful heart
I will pay my vows.
Deliv'rance, Lord,
belongs to you!"

Prayer

O God of deliverance, you saved Jonah through the waters of death, and after three days you brought him to new life. Speak to us by this sign, and call us to repentance, that we may heed the voice of your risen Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Silent Reflection

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 6:3-11,

Christ's death and resurrection, our baptism our death to sin and life to God: this proclamation from Paul provides a summary for all the stories we here have heard and sung.

Word of God, Word of life!

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The paschal candle symbolizes for us the Risen Christ, whose body, like the light from the candle, is given away without its being lessened. And so we sing our first alleluia of Easter: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

The assembly stands.

Celtic Alleluia ELW #174

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20:1-18,

In the encounter Mary Magdalene had with Jesus, she did not recognize him. The process of discovering Jesus in their midst in new ways occupied the disciples for the remainder of their lives.

The gospel of the Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON Pastor Annemarie Burke

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: "Lord, in your mercy," "hear our prayer."

OFFERING

SACRAMENT

God brings the baptized out of death and into life. God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM BY THE ASSEMBLY

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the

world. And so, let us now give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of our baptism into Christ.

The assembly stands.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

We give you thanks, O God . . . To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

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!

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.**

The presiding minister continues:

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to care for the world God made,
and to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people 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.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

The ministers walk through the congregation for the "asperges," the practice of sprinkling the congregation with water as a reminder of baptism. As we remember our baptisms, we sing:

Refrain: Rain down, rain down
Rain down your love on your people
Rain down, rain down
Rain down your love, God of life

Faithful and true is the Word of our God
All of God's works are so worthy of trust
God's mercy falls on the just and the right
Full of God's love is the earth *Refrain*

We who revere and find hope in our God
Live in the kindness and joy of God's wing
God will protect us from darkness and death
God will not leave us to starve *Refrain*

God of creation, we long for your truth
You are the water of life that we thirst
Grant that your love and peace touch our hearts
All of our hope lies in you. *Refrain*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory,
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

Agnus Dei

Alleluia Alleluia

For our Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia Alleluia

For our Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia

Holy Holy

Are You Lord God Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb

Worthy is the Lamb

You are Holy

Holy

Are You Lord God Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb

Worthy is the Lamb

Amen

by Michael W. Smith CCLI#877775

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE