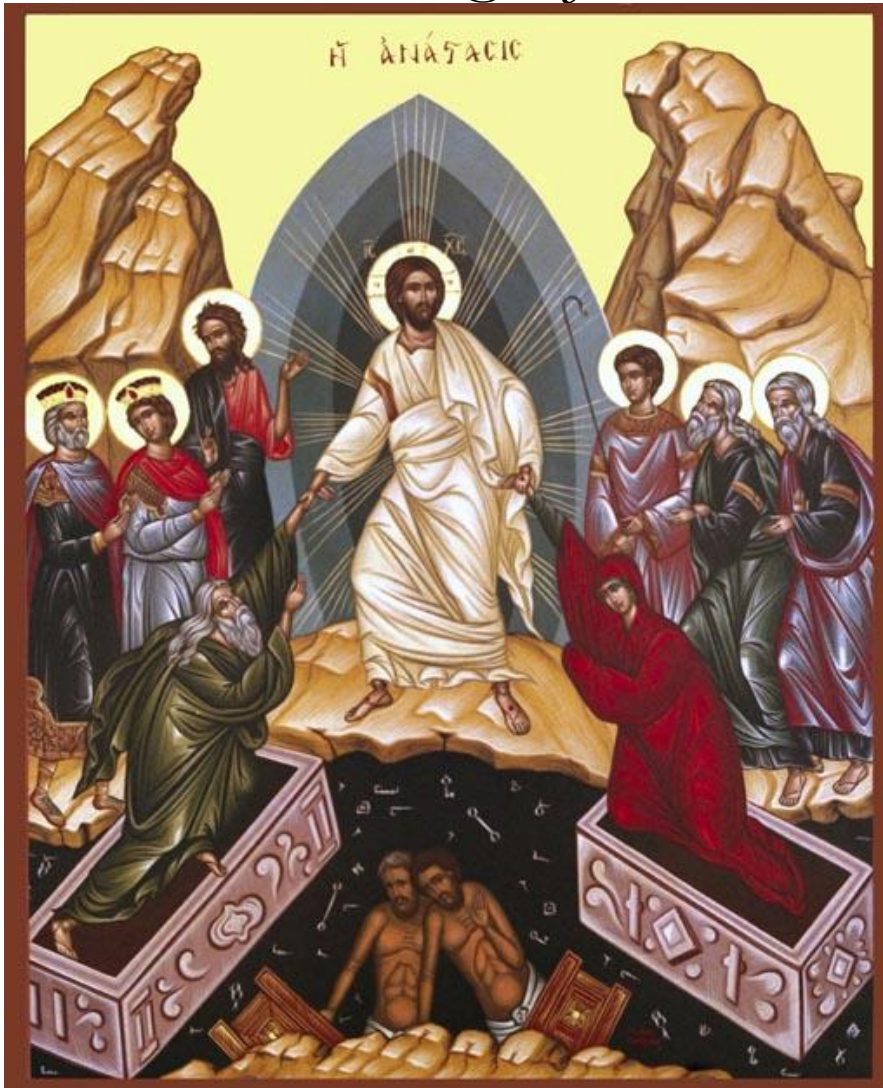


The Great Vigil of Easter



March 30, 2024 8:00 PM

About the Paschal Triduum

The Easter Triduum (three days) celebrates the Passover (*Pascha*) of the Lord from death to life. It begins in the Upper Room. It ends at a tomb wherein Christ rises from the dead. Some of the most ancient rites of the Christian community are observed these three days.

On Thursday, the entire assembly is invited to participate in the Washing of Feet. Bread and wine are consecrated for the ministration of Holy Communion both Thursday and during the Liturgy of Good Friday. Following the Transfer of the Eucharist to the Altar of Repose, the altar and sanctuary are stripped of all ornament and furnishing, and silence is observed. Following the Mass, the Watch before the Blessed Sacrament is observed until the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday. You are invited to join in the watch before the Holy Sacrament as you are able. The Church will remain open throughout the night for this purpose.

On Friday the liturgy begins with the priest prostrate and the people kneeling before the altar. Following the liturgy of the Word and the preaching of the Gospel, the Church offers her intercessions on behalf of the world as the Body of Christ, the great High Priest, in a form used by the ancient Church at *every* liturgy but now used exclusively on Good Friday. Then we are invited to participate in the Veneration of the Cross and to make that cross our own. Finally we receive Holy Communion from the Sacrament consecrated on Thursday night at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The choruses for the Passion are by Tomas Luis de Victoria.

On Saturday we begin in the dark, awaiting the light, which proclaims the resurrection. Then we share that light. The ceremonies of this night are about an old Adam and a new Adam, about death and life. The central Christian belief is that Jesus was crucified and he rose from the dead. In the liturgical tradition of the Church this is not a past or abstract reality. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is remembered and *made present* in our worship and in our common life. "Jesus Christ, yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, Alpha and Omega. His are all times and all ages. To him be glory and dominion through all eternity."

Please silence cell phones and other electronic devices.

The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Eve

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant addresses the people in these words

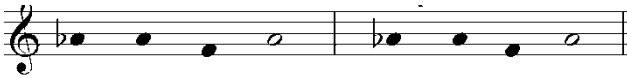
Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

The Celebrant says the following prayer

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 lit from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon, bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The candles that have been distributed to members of the congregation are lighted from the Paschal Candle at this time.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand. Then the Celebrant, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet, as follows

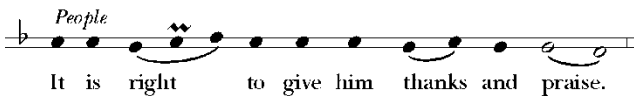
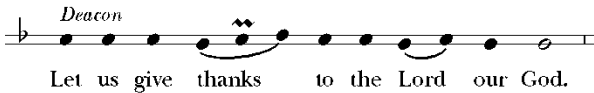
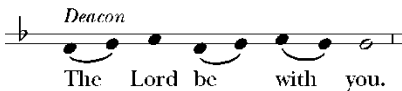
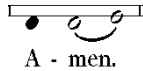
Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King.

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.

People



The Celebrant continues

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.

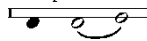
This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

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.

People

A - men.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Celebrant introduces the Scripture readings

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 story of Creation: Genesis 1:12:4a

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

After the lesson, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A portion of Psalm 33 Exultate, justi, (Mason Martens) is sung by the choir with the congregation singing the antiphon

Antiphon (*cantor*)

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, by the breath of his mouth all the hosts.

Antiphon (*all*)



By the word of the Lord were the hea-vens made, by the breath of his mouth all the hosts.

- 1 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous; *
it is good for the just to sing praises.
- 2 Praise the LORD with the harp; *
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.
- 3 Sing for him a new song; *
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet. (*Antiphon*)

- 4 For the word of the LORD is right, *
and all his works are sure.
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice; *
the loving-kindness of the lord fills the whole earth. (*Antiphon*)
- 7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *
and stores up the depths of the sea.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; *
Let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him. (*Antiphon*)
- 9 For he spoke, and it came to pass; *
he commanded, and it stood fast.
- 11 But the LORD'S will stands fast for ever, *
and the designs of his heart from age to age. (*Antiphon*)

The celebrant sings

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.*

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

A Reading from Exodus.

After the lesson, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The choir sings The Song of Moses (*plainsong*)

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
YHWH is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?

You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up.

With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant them *
on the mount of your possession,

The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.

The Lord shall reign *
for ever and for ever.

The celebrant sings

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.*

The gathering of God's people: Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

After the lesson, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A portion of Psalm 98 Cantate Domino (Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni), is sung by the choir.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

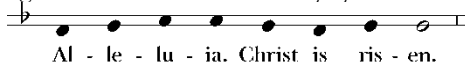
The celebrant sings

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility 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.*

The Renewal of Baptismal VowsBCP Page 292

The Celebrant sings the Easter Acclamation to the people



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.



The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

Bells are rung and the candles at the Altar are now lit and the Celebrant asperges the congregation.

Gloria in excelsis Deo BCP Page 356, Hymnal S-280

The Celebrant then sings

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 Lessons

• *All may be seated for the readings* •

The first lesson (Romans 6:3-11) is read, the Reader first saying

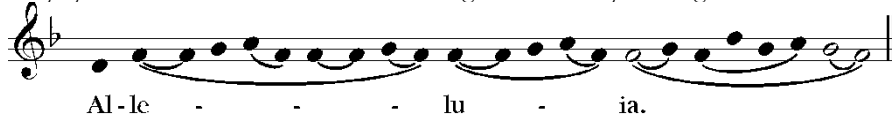
A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

The people stand and the Great Alleluia announcing the Easter Gospel is sung three times.



The Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel (Mark 16:1-8), first saying

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.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

• *All may be seated* •

The Sermon Easter Homily of St. John Chryostom

The Prayers of the People.....BCP Page 388

The PeaceBCP Page 360

• *After the Peace, all may be seated for announcements.* •

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Hymn 174.....*Salzburg*

• *All stand as are able* •

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda BCP Page 372, Hymnal S-120

Sanctus & Benedictus BCP Page 373, Hymnal S-130

• *All stand or kneel as are able.* •

The Eucharistic Prayer continuesBCP Page 373

The Lord's Prayer..... BCP Page 364, Hymnal S-119

The Breaking of the Bread

<i>Agnus Dei</i>	Hymnal S-164
The Invitation	BCP Page 365

Reception of Holy Communion

All baptized persons are welcome and encouraged to receive Christ's Body and Blood at this altar. If for any reason you are unable or do not wish to receive communion, you are still welcome to come to the altar rail to receive a blessing and indicate this preference by crossing your arms over your chest. If you are physically unable to come forward, please notify an usher and the Sacrament will be brought to you.

The congregation sings the following hymn as communion continues and the Altar is cleared.

Hymn 181 *St. Ethelwald*

Post Communion Prayer.....BCP Page 365

• *All stand as are able* •

The Priest blesses the people with the following Easter blessing.

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 207..... *Easter Hymn*

The Deacon or the Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia.

People

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score consists of three staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. It contains a whole rest followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a half note D5. The second staff continues with a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a half note G4. The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a common time signature. It contains a whole rest followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a half note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a half note G4. The system ends with a double bar line.

Postlude *Toccata (Symphony V)*..... Charles-Marie Widor



Holy Week 2024 at GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev'd Anthony Puca, Jr., Celebrant
The Rev'd Deacon Leonard Roberts
Mrs. Kathryn MacCourt, Organist and Choirmaster

March 24

The Sunday of the Passion:

Palm Sunday

10:00 am

The Holy Eucharist with the Blessing of the Palms, Procession, and the Proclamation of the Passion Narrative

March 28

Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm

The Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar, and Reservation of the Sacrament on the Altar of Repose

March 29

Good Friday

7:00 pm

Proper Liturgy of Good Friday with Veneration of the Cross and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

March 30

The Great Vigil of Easter

8:00 pm

Lighting of the Great Fire and the First Holy Eucharist of Easter

March 31

Easter Sunday

10:00 am

The Holy Eucharist with Choir and Hymns

GRACE CHURCH

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