



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

April 11, 2020 (Easter Vigil)

INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS...

Leader: Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with all the Church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of Jesus Christ. Tonight, through light and word, we celebrate the new life that Christ shares with us.

OPENING PRAYER:

Redeeming God,
source of life and light,
bless this new fire, and grant that we who are warmed by the
celebration of this Easter feast,
may share in the everlasting festival of your radiance,
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

EASTER PROCLAMATION:

Leader: Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels;
Rejoice now, all creation;
Sound forth, trumpet of salvation,
And proclaim the triumph of our King.
Rejoice too, all the earth,

In the radiance of the light now poured upon you
And made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King;
Know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished.
Rejoice, O Church of Christ,
Clothed in the brightness of this light;
Let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing,
With the praises of all God's faithful people.



Leader: The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly good, right, and salutary
That we should at all times and in all places,
With all our heart and mind and voice,
Praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God,
And your only begotten Son,
Jesus Christ.

For He is the very Paschal Lamb
Who offered Himself for the sin of the world,
Who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood.
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 ground.
This is the night
When all who believe in Christ
Are delivered from bondage to sin
And are restored to life and immortality.

This is the night
When Christ, the Life, rose from the dead.
The seal of the grave is broken
And the morning of a new creation breaks forth out of night.
How wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God,
That to redeem a slave You gave Your Son.
How holy is this night
When all wickedness is put to flight
And sin is washed away.



How holy is this night
When innocence is restored to the fallen
And joy is given to those downcast.
How blessed is this night
When man is reconciled to God in Christ.
Holy Father,
Accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise.
Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts,
He who gives light to all creation,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.
Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE:

God's Covenantal Love through the Old and New Testaments

- Genesis 1:26-2:3
- Genesis Gen 9:8-17
- Genesis 12:1-3
- Exodus 19:5-6
- 2 Samuel 7:8-19
- Matthew 26:26-28
- Romans 6:3-11
- Luke 24:1-12

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS:

In our baptism, God called us out of death to life, out of darkness into his light. In our baptism we were washed with the blood of the Lamb and set apart as Holy to the Lord. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. We are called to live out of our baptism as people of hope and purpose in Christ. Let us now find ourselves renewed in the resurrection of Jesus as we reaffirm our baptismal vows together.



Therefore, I ask:

Leader: Do you reject the devil, all his works and spiritual rebellion against God?

People: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the vanities of our fallen world and culture?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce of the sinful lusts of our fallen nature that separate us from God and neighbor?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Christ as Savior?

I do.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I do.

Do you come to Christ who is the way, the truth and the life?

I do.

Prayer over the Water

Leader: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan: We thank you for the gift of water through which you cleanse and revive us. We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea and the Jordan River you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. We thank you for the example of Jesus who, as the Pioneer and Perfector of our faith, was baptized by John in the Jordan. We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are blessed with it in it may be renewed by faith as being one with Christ in his death and in his



resurrection, and cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon them, keep them in the household of faith, and bring them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Profession of Faith (The Apostle's Creed)

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **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 catholic 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 the prayers?

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.

Asperges

Dear brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:19-23).

PRAYER:

All: Almighty God, by Your power You raised Jesus from death to life. Through His victory over the grave we are set free from the bonds of sin and the fear of death to share the glorious freedom of the children of God. In His rising to life, You promise eternal life to all who believe in Him. We praise You that as we walk out our baptisms in faith, we shall know the risen Christ among us.

THE STREPITUS...



PRAYER:

All: God of our salvation, You have restored us to life, You have brought us through the valley of the shadow of death into Your love by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ: Continue to walk beside us as we go forth to live and work in the power of your Holy Spirit, to Your praise and glory. Amen.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING:

Leader: “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. May Christ’s rising lift your spirits and gladden your hearts.

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

All those who believe in Christ will never perish. May you pass with Christ from death to life.

Alleluia! Amen.

Christ has gone to prepare a place for us. May His resurrection bring you all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope.

Alleluia! Amen.

Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— bless you now and forever.

Alleluia! Amen.

ALL DEPART IN THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION...

About the Easter Vigil tradition...

Easter Vigil, also called the Paschal Vigil or the Great Vigil of Easter, is a service held in traditional Christian churches as the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Historically, and going back to the very early Christian

church, it is during this service that people are baptized and that catechumens are received into full communion of the Church. It is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day – most commonly in the evening of Holy Saturday or midnight – and is the first celebration of Easter, days traditionally being considered to begin at sunset.



Among liturgical western churches including the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, and Lutheran churches, the Easter Vigil is the most important service of public worship of the liturgical year, marked by the first use since the beginning of Lent of the word “Alleluia,” a distinctive feature of the Easter season.

In the Eastern Orthodox tradition, the extremely festive ceremonies and liturgy which are celebrated during the Easter Vigil are unique to that night and are the most elaborate and important of the liturgical year.

About the readings we use tonight: Normally, there are twelve original Old Testament readings for the Easter Vigil. In addition, tradition is that the account of the Last Supper through to the end of Matthew’s gospel is also read. Tonight, we are breaking with tradition in some of the specific Scriptures. We are choosing some of the usual passages, but are focusing especially on Scriptures that speak to God’s covenantal love through the Old and New Testaments.

Meanwhile, we joyfully include the ancient Easter Vigil traditions of the Easter proclamation, profession of faith, baptismal renewal, and strepitus. What’s a “strepitus,” you ask? You’ll see!