

## **THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT**

On this holy night, the mother of all Vigils, the Church keeps watch, celebrating the Resurrection of Christ and awaiting his return in glory. It is the turning point of the Triduum, the Passover of the new Covenant, which marks Christ's passage from death to life.

The liturgy begins as a fire is kindled and blessed outside the church. The Paschal Candle, a symbol of the light of Christ through his Resurrection, is lit. The Paschal Candle leads everyone into the church and individual candles are lit. The Exsultet, the great hymn that calls on all of creation to rejoice, is sung and readings follow.

The readings recount the outstanding deeds of the history of salvation. These deeds are related in seven readings from the Old Testament chosen from the law and the prophets and two readings from the New Testament. The faithful are encouraged to meditate on these readings by the singing of a responsorial psalm, followed by a pause, and then by the celebrant's prayer. After the last reading from the Old Testament, the altar candles are lit, the Gloria is sung, and the bells of the church are rung.

After the Gospel and the Homily the liturgy enters its third part, the Baptismal Liturgy. The blessing of the Easter water is central in this ritual and the priest may insert the Paschal candle into the water indicating the infusion of the Holy Spirit on the water. If there are candidates for baptism, they receive the sacrament at this moment (adults usually together with the sacrament of confirmation). Then all the faithful renew their baptismal promises, thereby also remembering their own participation in the Paschal Mystery.

The Mass continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist, as usual.

# FIRST PART: THE SOLEMN BEGINNING OF THE VIGIL

## The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle

*A blazing fire is prepared outside the church. The Priest begins the liturgy with blessing and preparation of the Paschal Candle.*

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Priest:** Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), on this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

*Then the Priest blesses the fire, saying with hands extended:*

**Priest:** Let us pray. O God, who through your Son bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory, sanctify ✠ this new fire, we pray, and grant that, by these paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires, that with minds made pure we may attain festivities of unending splendor. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Priest:** Christ yesterday and today (he traces a vertical line);  
the Beginning and the End (he traces a horizontal line);  
the Alpha (he traces the letter Alpha above the vertical line);  
and the Omega (he traces the letter Omega below the vertical line).  
All time belongs to him (he traces the 1st number on the cross);  
and all the ages (he traces the 2nd number on the cross).  
To him be glory and power (he traces the 3rd numeral on the cross);  
through every age and for ever. Amen (he cuts the 4<sup>th</sup> number on the cross).

**Priest:** By his holy and glorious wounds,  
may Christ the Lord guard us and protect us.

**All: Amen**

*The Priest lights the paschal candle from the new fire, saying:*

**Priest:** May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

## **Procession**

*When the candle has been lit, one of the ministers takes burning coals from the fire and places them in the thurible, and the Priest puts incense into it in the usual way. A procession forms of the priest and servers followed by the people, who carry unlit candles.*

*At the door of the church:*

**Priest:** The Light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*At the middle of the church:*

**Priest:** The Light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A server lights a candle from the paschal candle and passes the flame to the people, who pass it to one another. Before the altar:*

**Priest:** The Light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*The paschal candle is placed in the candle-holder.*

**All remain standing.**

## **The Easter Proclamation (Exsúltet)**

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,  
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,  
let the trumpet of salvation  
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!  
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,  
ablaze with light from her eternal King,

let all corners of the earth be glad,  
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.  
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,  
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,  
let this holy building shake with joy,  
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

Therefore, dearest friends,  
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,  
invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty,  
that he, who has been pleased to number me,  
though unworthy, among the Levites,  
may pour into me his light unshadowed,  
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart  
and with devoted service of our voice,  
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,  
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,  
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,  
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,  
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,  
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,  
from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night that with a pillar of fire  
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night  
that even now, throughout the world,  
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices  
and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace  
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,  
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death  
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,  
had we not been redeemed.  
O wonder of your humble care for us!  
O love, O charity beyond all telling,  
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,  
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,  
worthy alone to know the time and hour  
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night of which it is written:  
The night shall be as bright as day,  
dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night  
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,  
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,  
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,  
accept this candle, a solemn offering,  
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,  
an evening sacrifice of praise,  
this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar,  
which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,  
a fire into many flames divided,  
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,  
for it is fed by melting wax,  
drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,  
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,  
and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle,  
hallowed to the honor of your name,  
may persevere undimmed,  
to overcome the darkness of this night.  
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,  
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.  
May this flame be found still burning  
by the Morning Star:  
the one Morning Star who never sets,  
Christ your Son,  
who, coming back from death's domain,  
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,  
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

## SECOND PART: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### All extinguish their candles and sit

**Priest:** Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption.

#### Reading I Genesis 1:1-2:2

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day. Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed—the second day. Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea." God saw how good it was. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day. Then God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day. Then God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky." And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying,

"Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth." Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

*Responsorial Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35*

**R/ Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!  
You are clothed with majesty and glory,  
robed in light as with a cloak. **R/**

You fixed the earth upon its foundation,  
not to be moved forever;  
with the ocean, as with a garment, you  
covered it;  
above the mountains the waters stood. **R/**

You send forth springs into the watercourses  
that wind among the mountains.  
Beside them the birds of heaven dwell;

from among the branches they send forth  
their song. **R/**

You water the mountains from your palace;  
the earth is replete with the fruit of your  
works.

You raise grass for the cattle,  
and vegetation for man's use,  
Producing bread from the earth. **R/**

How manifold are your works, O LORD!  
In wisdom you have wrought them all—  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul! **R/**

**All stand**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
Almighty ever-living God,

who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works, may those you have redeemed understand that there exists nothing more marvelous than the world's creation in the beginning except that, at the end of the ages, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

*Or:*

**Sit**

*Reading II Genesis 22:1-18*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him his son Isaac and two of his servants as well, and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust, set out for the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham got sight of the place from afar. Then he said to his servants: "Both of you stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over yonder. We will worship and then come back to you." Thereupon Abraham took the wood for the holocaust and laid it on his son Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham: "Father!" Isaac said. "Yes, son," he replied. Isaac continued, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?" "Son," Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust." Then the two continued going forward. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he tied up his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Abraham named the site Yahweh-

**Priest:** O God, who wonderfully created human nature and still more wonderfully redeemed it, grant us, we pray, to set our minds against the enticements of sin, that we may merit to attain eternal joys. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

yireh; hence people now say, "On the mountain the LORD will see." Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing — all this because you obeyed my command."

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

*Responsorial Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11*

**R/ You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,  
you it is who hold fast my lot.  
I set the LORD ever before me;  
with him at my right hand I shall not be  
disturbed. **R/**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul  
rejoices,  
my body, too, abides in confidence;

because you will not abandon my soul to  
the netherworld,  
nor will you suffer your faithful one to  
undergo corruption. **R/**

You will show me the path to life,  
fullness of joys in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever. **R/**

**Stand**

**Priest:** Let us pray.

O God, supreme Father of the faithful, who increase the children of your promise by pouring out the grace of adoption throughout the whole world and who through the Paschal Mystery make your servant Abraham father of nations, as once you swore, grant, we pray, that your peoples may enter worthily into the grace to which you call them.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Sit**

*Reading III Exodus 14:15-15:1*

A reading from the book of Exodus

The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers." The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians. Then the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

*Responsorial Psalm Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18*

**R/ Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;  
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.  
He is my God, I praise him;  
the God of my father, I extol him. **R/**

The LORD is a warrior, LORD is his name!  
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;  
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea. **R/**

The flood waters covered them,

## Stand

**Priest:** Let us pray. O God, whose ancient wonders remain undimmed in splendor even in our day, for what you once bestowed on a single people, freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution by the power of your right hand now you bring about as the salvation of the nations through the waters of rebirth, grant, we pray, that the whole world may become children of Abraham and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen  
**Sit**

### Reading IV Isaiah 54:5-14

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The One who has become your husband is your Maker; his name is the LORD of hosts; your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, called God of all the earth. The LORD calls you back, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, a wife married in youth and then cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back. In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; but with enduring love I take pity on you, says the LORD, your

they sank into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,  
your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy. **R/**

You brought in the people you redeemed and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance  
the place where you made your seat, O LORD,  
the sanctuary, LORD, which your hands established.  
The LORD shall reign forever and ever. **R/**

*Or:*

**Priest:** O God, who by the light of the New Testament have unlocked the meaning of wonders worked in former times, so that the Red Sea prefigures the sacred font and the nation delivered from slavery foreshadows the Christian people, grant, we pray, that all nations, obtaining the privilege of Israel by merit of faith, may be reborn by partaking of your Spirit.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

redeemer. This is for me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; so I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you. Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, my love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you. O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsoled, I lay your pavements in carnelians, and your foundations in sapphires; I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of carbuncles, and all your walls of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. In justice shall you be established, far from the fear of oppression, where destruction cannot come near you.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 R/ I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear  
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld;  
you preserved me from among those going down into the pit. **R/**

Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones,

**Stand**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
Almighty ever-living God,  
surpass, for the honor of your name,  
what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of their faith,  
and through sacred adoption increase the children of your promise,  
so that what the Saints of old never doubted would come to pass  
your Church may now see in great part fulfilled.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Sit**

and give thanks to his holy name.  
For his anger lasts but a moment;  
a lifetime, his good will.  
At nightfall, weeping enters in,  
but with the dawn, rejoicing. **R/**

Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;  
O LORD, be my helper.  
You changed my mourning into dancing;  
O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks. **R/**

Reading V Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts. For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

*Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6*

**R/ You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

God indeed is my savior;  
I am confident and unafraid.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.  
With joy you will draw water  
at the fountain of salvation. **R/**

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his  
name;

among the nations make known his deeds,  
proclaim how exalted is his name. **R/**

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious  
achievement;  
let this be known throughout all the earth.  
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel! **R/**

**Stand**

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
Almighty ever-living God,

sole hope of the world,  
who by the preaching of your Prophets  
unveiled the mysteries of this present age,  
graciously increase the longing of your people,  
for only at the prompting of your grace  
do the faithful progress in any kind of virtue.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

**Sit**

Reading VI Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch

Hear, O Israel, the commandments of life: listen, and know prudence! How is it, Israel, that you are in the land of your foes, grown old in a foreign land, defiled with the dead, accounted with those destined for the netherworld? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom! Had you walked in the way of God, you would have dwelt in enduring peace. Learn where prudence is, where strength, where understanding; that you may know also where are length of days, and life, where light of the eyes, and peace. Who has found the place of wisdom, who has entered into her treasuries? The One who knows all things knows her; he has probed her by his knowledge – The One who established the earth for all time, and filled it with four-footed beasts; he who dismisses the light, and it departs, calls it, and it obeys him trembling; before whom the stars at their posts shine and rejoice; when he calls them, they answer, "Here we are!" shining with joy for their Maker. Such is our God; no other is to be compared to him: he has traced out the whole way of understanding, and has given her to Jacob, his servant, to Israel, his beloved son. Since then she has appeared on earth, and moved among people. She is the book of the precepts of God, the law that endures forever; all who cling to her will live, but those will die who forsake her. Turn, O Jacob, and receive her: walk by her light toward splendor. Give not your glory to another, your privileges to an alien race. Blessed are we, O Israel; for what pleases God is known to us!

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul;  
the decree of the LORD is trustworthy,

**R/ Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

giving wisdom to the simple. **R/**

The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;

the command of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eye. **R/**

The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true,

all of them just. **R/**

They are more precious than gold,  
than a heap of purest gold;  
sweeter also than syrup  
or honey from the comb. **R/**

## **Stand**

**Priest:** Let us pray.

O God, who constantly increase your Church  
by your call to the nations,  
graciously grant  
to those you wash clean in the waters of Baptism  
the assurance of your unfailing protection.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## **Sit**

**Reading VII** *Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the LORD came to me, saying: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefore I poured out my fury upon them because of the blood that they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols. I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations wherever they came, they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: "These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave their land." So I have relented because of my holy name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came. I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when in their sight I prove my holiness through you. For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make

you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

*Responsorial Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19*

A clean heart create for me, O God,  
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.  
Cast me not out from your presence,  
and your Holy Spirit take not from me. **R/**

Give me back the joy of your salvation,  
and a willing spirit sustain in me.  
I will teach transgressors your ways,

**R/ Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

and sinners shall return to you. **R/**

For you are not pleased with sacrifices;  
should I offer a holocaust, you would not  
accept it.

My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit;  
a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you  
will not spurn. **R/**

## **Stand**

**Priest:** Let us pray.

O God of unchanging power and eternal light,  
look with favor on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church  
and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation,  
which you planned from all eternity;  
may the whole world know and see  
that what was cast down is raised up,  
what had become old is made new,  
and all things are restored to integrity through Christ,  
just as by him they came into being.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

*Or:*

O God, who by the pages of both Testaments  
instruct and prepare us to celebrate the Paschal Mystery,  
grant that we may comprehend your mercy,  
so that the gifts we receive from you this night  
may confirm our hope of the gifts to come.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

*During the Gloria the bells of the church are rung.*

### **GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **COLLECT**

**Priest:** Let us pray.

O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render you undivided service.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

### **Sit**

*Epistle Romans 6:3-11*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our

old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Stand**

*After the Epistle has been read, all rise and the Alleluia is intoned*

Responsorial Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

**R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,  
“His mercy endures forever.” **R/**

The right hand of the LORD has struck  
with power;  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.

I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD. **R/**

The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
By the LORD has this been done;  
it is wonderful in our eyes. **R/**

Gospel Matthew 28:1-10

The Lord be with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.

Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Homily (Sit)**

## **Stand**

## **THIRD PART: BAPTISMAL LITURGY**

**Priest:** Dearly beloved,  
let us humbly invoke upon this font  
the grace of God the almighty Father,  
that those who from it are born anew  
may be numbered among the children of adoption in Christ.

## **Litany of the Saints**

Lord, have mercy  
*Lord, have mercy*  
Christ, have mercy  
*Christ, have mercy*  
Lord, have mercy  
*Lord, have mercy*

**Response to the invocation of the saints** (patron saints of the catechumens may be included):

Holy Mary, Mother of God: *Pray for us.*  
Saint Michael:  
Holy angels of God:  
Saint John the Baptist:  
Saint Joseph:

Saint Peter and Saint Paul:  
Saint Andrew:  
Saint John:  
Saint Mary Magdalene:  
St Lazarus:

Saint Stephen:  
Saint Ignatius of Antioch:  
Saint Lawrence:  
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity:  
Saint Agnes:  
Saint Gregory:  
Saint Augustine:  
Saint Athanasius:  
Saint Basil:  
Saint Martin:  
Saint Benedict:  
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic:  
Saint Francis Xavier:  
St John Vianney:  
Saint Catherine of Siena:

Saint Teresa of Jesus:  
All holy men and women, Saints of  
God: *Pray for us.*

Lord, be merciful: *Lord deliver us, we  
pray.*

From all evil:

From every sin:

From everlasting death:

By your Incarnation:

By your Death and Resurrection:

By your outpouring of the Holy Spirit:

*Lord deliver us, we pray.*

Be merciful to us sinners: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*[If there are candidates to be baptized*

*Bring these chosen ones to new birth, through the grace of baptism, Lord, hear our prayer]*

Make this font holy by your grace for the new birth of your children:

Jesus, Son of the living God:

Christ, hear us:

*Christ, hear us.*

Christ, graciously hear us:

*Christ, graciously hear us.*

## **BLESSING OF BAPTISMAL WATER**

*The Priest blesses the baptismal water.*

O God, who by invisible power  
accomplish a wondrous effect  
through sacramental signs  
and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation,  
to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit  
in the first moments of the world's creation  
hovered over the waters,  
so that the very substance of water  
would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood  
foreshadowed regeneration,  
so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water  
would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham  
to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea,  
so that the chosen people,  
set free from slavery to Pharaoh,  
would prefigure the people of the baptized;

O God, whose Son,  
baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan,  
was anointed with the Holy Spirit,  
and, as he hung upon the Cross,  
gave forth water from his side along with blood,  
and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples:  
"Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them  
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"  
look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church  
and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit  
the grace of your Only Begotten Son,  
so that human nature, created in your image  
and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism  
from all the squalor of the life of old,  
may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children  
through water and the Holy Spirit.

*Lowering the paschal candle into the water either once or three times, he continues:*

May the power of the Holy Spirit,  
O Lord, we pray,

come down through your Son  
into the fullness of this font,

*and, holding the candle in the water, he continues:*

so that all who have been buried with Christ  
by Baptism into death  
may rise again to life with him.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever  
All: Amen.

*[If there are candidates to be baptized, the sacraments of baptism and confirmation follow]*

## **RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

**The people light their candles.**

**Priest:** Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),  
through the Paschal Mystery  
we have been buried with Christ in Baptism,  
so that we may walk with him in newness of life.  
And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded,  
let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism,  
by which we once renounced Satan and his works  
and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.  
And so I ask you:

**Priest:** Do you renounce Satan?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** And all his works?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** And all his empty show?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you believe in God,

the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** And may almighty God,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit  
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,  
keep us by his grace,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
for eternal life.

**All:** Amen.

*The Priest sprinkles the people with the blessed water.*

### **Prayers of the Faithful (Stand)**

**Lector:** We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: ...through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

**Sit**

## **FOURTH PART: THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

*The altar with offerings is incensed as a sign of God's acceptance of our gifts. The priest is incensed, followed by the congregation, as a sign of our self-offering to the Lord, who accepts our offering.*

**Stand**

**Priest:** Pray, brethren,  
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**All:** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

**Priest:** Accept, we ask, O Lord,  
the prayers of your people  
with the sacrificial offerings,  
that what has begun in the paschal mysteries  
may, by the working of your power,  
bring us to the healing of eternity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

## **PREFACE**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** It is right and just.

**Priest:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,  
but on this night above all  
to laud you yet more gloriously,  
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.  
For he is the true Lamb  
who has taken away the sins of the world;  
by dying he has destroyed our death,  
and by rising, restored our life.  
Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,  
every land, every people exults in your praise  
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,  
sing together the unending hymn of your glory,  
as they acclaim:

## **SANCTUS**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** (as below or another one chosen by the celebrant)

**Priest:** To you, therefore, most merciful Father,  
we make humble prayer and petition  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord:  
that you accept  
and bless ✠ these gifts, these offerings,  
these holy and unblemished sacrifices,  
which we offer you firstly  
for your holy catholic Church.  
Be pleased to grant her peace,  
to guard, unite and govern her  
throughout the whole world,  
together with your servant N. our Pope  
and N. our Bishop,  
and all those who, holding to the truth,  
hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants  
and all gathered here,  
whose faith and devotion are known to you.  
For them we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
or they offer it for themselves  
and all who are dear to them:  
for the redemption of their souls,  
in hope of health and well-being,  
and paying their homage to you,  
the eternal God, living and true.

Celebrating the most sacred night  
on which our Lord Jesus Christ  
was handed over for our sake,  
and in communion with those whose memory we venerate,  
especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary,  
Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ,

and ✠ blessed Joseph, her Spouse  
your blessed Apostles and Martyrs,  
Peter and Paul, Andrew,  
(James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon  
and Jude; Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence,  
Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian) and all your Saints;  
we ask that through their merits and prayers,  
in all things we may be defended  
by your protecting help.

Therefore, Lord, we pray:  
graciously accept this oblation of our service,  
that of your whole family,  
which we make to you  
as we observe the day  
on which our Lord Jesus Christ  
handed on the mysteries of his Body and Blood  
for his disciples to celebrate;  
order our days in your peace,  
and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation  
and counted among the flock of those you have chosen.

## **Kneel**

Be pleased, O God, we pray  
to bless, acknowledge,  
and approve this offering in every respect;  
make it spiritual and acceptable,  
so that it may become for us  
the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer  
for our salvation and the salvation of all,  
that is today,  
he took bread in his holy and venerable hands,  
and with eyes raised to heaven  
to you, O God, his almighty Father,  
giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took this precious chalice  
in his holy and venerable hands,  
and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith. **(Stand)**

**All:** We proclaim your Death, o Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, and the glorious Ascension into heaven of Christ, your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and your holy people, offer to your glorious majesty from the gifts that you have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.

Remember also, Lord, your servants who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace.

*Brief silent prayer for those who have died.*

Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ,

a place of refreshment, light and peace.

To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners,  
hope in your abundant mercies,  
graciously grant some share  
and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist,  
Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, (Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter,  
Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia)  
and all your Saints;  
admit us, we beseech you,  
into their company,  
not weighing our merits,  
but granting us your pardon,  
through Christ our Lord.

Through whom  
you continue to make all these good things, O Lord;  
you sanctify them, fill them with life,  
bless them, and bestow them upon us.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
to you, O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
is all honor and glory,  
for ever and ever.

**All: Amen, amen, amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Priest:** At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:** 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.

**Priest:** Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**All:** For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

**Priest:**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: *Peace I leave you, my peace I give you*, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All offer one another the sign of peace according to local custom (bow or handshake) without leaving their places in the pews. The sign of peace is not to be prolonged.*

**Agnus Dei**

**Invitation to Communion**

**Kneel**

**Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All:** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

*Communion will be given under both species, and received on the tongue.*

*We welcome non-Catholic worshippers to our Mass, and invite you to remain seated during Communion and welcome Christ into your hearts spiritually.*

## **Reception of Communion**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Priest:** Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this paschal Sacrament one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

### **PROCESSION OF RESURRECTION**

*Procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament through the cloister in front of the church.*

### **TE DEUM**

We praise thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting.  
To Thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens and all the powers therein.  
To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy:  
Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of Thy Glory.  
The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee.  
The godly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee.  
The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee;  
The Father of an infinite Majesty;  
Thine honourable, true, and only Son;  
Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.  
When Thou tookest upon Thee to deliver man: Thou didst not abhor the  
Virgin's womb.

When Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, Thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

We believe that Thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save Thy people: and bless Thine heritage.

Govern them and lift them up for ever.

Day by day we magnify Thee; and we worship Thy Name, ever world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let Thy mercy lighten upon us: as our trust is in Thee.

O Lord, in Thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

## **SOLEMN BLESSING**

**Priest:** May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

**All:** Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia.

**All:** Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.