

# Welcome to St. Augustine's The Episcopal Center at URI

*A House of Prayer for all People*



## The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday April 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

## **The Lighting of the Paschal Candle**

*In the darkness, fire is kindled and the Paschal Candle is blessed and lit; after which the Celebrant may address the people in these or similar 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.

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.*

Deacon: The Light of Christ. (sung three times)

**People: Thanks be to God!**

The Exsultet

BCP pg. 286

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 around the 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 live and reigns with

him in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one god, forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

*Answer* And also with you.

*Deacon* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Answer* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Deacon*

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 feasts of Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

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 wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

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

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May

Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning --- he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### First Lesson: **Genesis 1: 1- 2:2**    *The Story of Creation*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the

darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Second Lesson: The Flood;** lesson is sung (*see words below*)

(Chorus) So Rise and shine and give God the glory glory  
Rise and shine and give God the glory glory  
Rise and shine and give God the glory glory  
Children of the Lord

And God said to Noah there's gonna be a floody, floody  
And God said to Noah  
There's gonna be a floody, floody  
Get those children out of the muddy, muddy, children of the Lord  
(chorus)

The Lord told Noah to build him an arky, arky  
The Lord told Noah to build him an arky, arky  
Build it out of gopher barky, barky, children of the Lord.  
(chorus)

The animals, they came, they came in by twosies twosies  
The animals, they came, they came in by twosies, twosies  
Elephants and kangaroosie, roosies, children of the Lord  
It rained and poured for forty daysies, daysies  
It rained and poured for forty daysies, daysies  
Almost drove those animals crazy, crazy, children of the Lord  
(chorus)

The sun came out, and dried up the landy, landy  
The sun came out, and dried up the landy, landy  
Look! There's the sun, it dried up the landy, landy  
Everything was fine and dandy, dandy, children of the Lord  
(chorus)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our praise and thanksgiving; in Jesus we pray.  
Amen

### **Third Lesson:** Exodus 14:10-18    *Israel's Deliverance*

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on

dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### **Hymn**

Wade in the water, wade in the water children  
Wade in the water  
God's gonna trouble the water  
Who's that young girl dressed in red  
Wade in the water  
Must be the children that Moses led  
God's gonna trouble the water  
Wade in the water  
Wade in the water children  
Wade in the water,  
God's gonna trouble the water  
Who's that young girl dressed in white  
Wade in the water  
Must be the children of the Israelite  
Oh, God's gonna trouble the water  
Wade in the water, wade in the water children  
Wade in the water,  
God's gonna trouble the water

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

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.*

**Fourth Lesson:** Ezekiel 37: 1-14    *The Valley of Dry Bones*

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; in Jesus we pray. *Amen.*

*The altar candles are lit and light brightens everywhere!*

**Easter Acclamation:**

*Presider:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***People:* Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Hymn 178 vs. 1, 2 & 4**

*(please ring bells here)*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Give thanks to the risen Lord.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Give Praise to his Name.*

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation.

*Refrain*

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen.

*Refrain*

4 Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Savior

*Refrain*

*Celebrant* God 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; in Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The Epistle:** Romans 6: 3-11

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.

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## **The Gospel**

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
Matthew

*People* **Glory to you O Christ.**

### **Matthew 27:57-66**

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel:*

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Meditation**

**The Rev. Beth Sherman**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Gracious God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and  
humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and  
Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations  
of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*  
Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*(Silence)*

*All: Eternal God, maker of all things: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

**Hymn** Sing Alleleuia to the Lord (3 times)

**Easter Collects**      **Vicar**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Celebrant:*

**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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Easter Blessing**

**Closing Hymn** We are Marching in the Light of God    WLP      787

We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of, the light of God.  
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,  
We are marching in the light of, the light of God.  
We are marching, marching we are marching, marching,  
We are marching in the light of God.

## **Dismissal**

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.



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The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, Bishop  
The Diocese of Rhode Island

### **Bishop's Committee**

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