

The Great Vigil Of Easter

April 15th 2017



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

The Great Vigil of Easter is an ancient liturgy that recalls God's saving acts throughout Hebrew history and joyfully celebrates God's conclusive and inclusive act of salvation in the raising of Jesus Christ from death to life, an event that extends eternal life to all whom God has made. In the first centuries following Christ's death and resurrection, this central liturgy of the Church was often an all night vigil, the first service of Easter and the service during which a three year period of study and formation came to an end for catechumens. Within the liturgy, these students were immersed in baptismal waters, lavishly anointed with oil and welcomed fully into the community of Christ after which they became recipients of the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time.

The service has four parts:

The Service of Light: *The congregation and ministers gather outside the church entrance and the New Fire is kindled. From this new fire, the Pascal candle and then the congregation's candles are lighted. A procession follows during which the "Light of Christ" is announced three times within the nave of the church. The Exsultet is an ancient hymn of praise that poetically calls the people to worship on this most holy night.*

The Service of Lessons: *After congregational candles are extinguished, the congregation is guided in a pilgrimage through salvation history as a series of lessons from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) are read.*

The Sacrament of Baptism (Christian Initiation) or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

The Holy Eucharist: *The service takes an abrupt turn from remembrance and initiation to celebration. Alleluias buried since Ash Wednesday return as the candles on the altar are lit from the Paschal Candle, the lights in the church go up and the priest proclaims, "Alleluia. Christ is Risen." Easter lessons are read, bread and wine are consecrated and consumed at Holy Communion, the people are sent out rejoicing in the hope and mystery of the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

THE SERVICE OF THE LIGHT

In the darkness, fire is kindled;

Presider: 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.

Presider: 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 then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Cantor, bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times singing

Presider The light of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The candles of the congregation are lighted from the Paschal candle.

- 9 For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.
- 10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

Presider 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.**

LESSON II: ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

EXODUS 14:10-31:15:20-21

HYMN 648

Presider 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.**

LESSON III: THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

PSALM 30 (*In unison*)

- 1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.
- 3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
- 4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; *
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
his favor for a lifetime.
- 6 Weeping may spend the night, *
but joy comes in the morning.
- 7 While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. *
You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."
- 8 Then you hid your face, *
and I was filled with fear.
- 9 I cried to you, O Lord; *
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,
- 10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? *
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"

- 11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; *
O Lord, be my helper.”
- 12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
- 13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Presider Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LESSON IV: THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

HYMN: 679

PSALM 126 (*In unison*)

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
And our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy shouldering their sheaves.

Presider 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.**

All stand as they are able

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

The Presider concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

THE HOLY EUCHARISTIC FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION

The candles at the Altar are now lighted from the Paschal Candle, the lights in the church are brought up as the presider leads the people in the Easter acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA.**

IMMEDIATELY, BELLS AND NOISE MAKERS OF ALL KINDS ARE VIGOROUSLY AND JOYFULLY RUNG AND PLAYED

HYMN 417

THE SALUTATION AND EASTER COLLECT

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 forever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE 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.

THE SEQUENCE

Hymn 208

The Presider continues

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing

Presider and People

Sanctus

S128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The people stand or kneel

Then the Presider continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. *Amen*



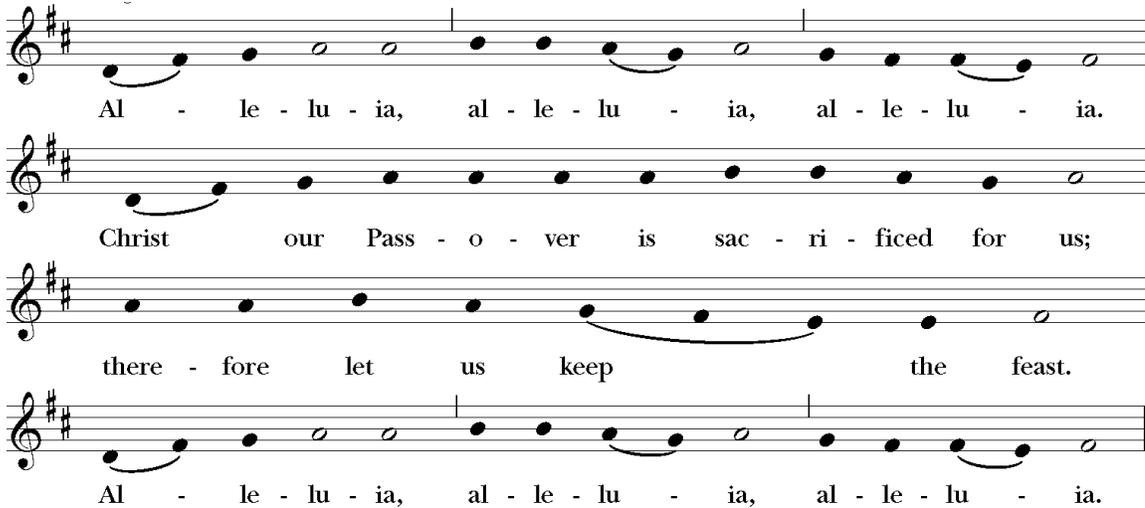
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Presider

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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

HYMNAL S 154



THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION: "THE GIFTS OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD"

This is the Lord's Table, God's feast for all of God's people. There is always Abundance here and a place for you. You are invited and encouraged to join us at the altar rail. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the bread or wine, you are welcome; please come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION HYMN

8 FOLD ALLELUIA

He is risen ~ He's my Savior ~ Jesus is Lord ~ Alleluia

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EASTER BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN 199

POSTLUDE

Easter Flowers



In loving memory of:

Townsend Way, Elsie Way, Glenn Saxe, Marjorie Saxe

Michael Lind

Kathryn Hinchey, Joseph Marrella, Bill Hinchey
Bill Quinlan Sr.

Our Grandparents

John Prouty, Vincenzo Garone

Florence Yambor, Gilbert & Alexandria Bailey

Dennis Warner

Jim & Beth Exley, Kent Tucker

Raymond & Elaine Smith, Norman & Pat Granier

Harold & Anastasia, Gregory, Helmut Hackl,
Jay Turner & loved ones

Given by:

Larry & Peggy Way

Cindy Lind

Sherri Quinlan & Valencia Marrella

Ben & Tanya Millet

The Garone Family

Tom & Cathy Bailey

Helen Warner

Lori & Paul Exley

Robin Smith

Dodie & Marie Kearns

In loving memory of:

Janet Lawson Schmitt & Robert Diehl Schmitt

Thomas W. Hall

William Seldon Hixon

Our parents & grandson

Family & friends departed

Randy Evans & our parents

Genny Aitken

Marge Dillman

My wife, Genny

Mom-Genny Aitken

Our grandparents, Mildred, Gilbert Sr., Emily, John,
Walter, Margaret, Edward & Cecilia

In grateful thanksgiving:

For our many blessings

Adult & bell Choirs, Our children,
Grandson Evan & Robin Smith

Our new child

All God's blessings

Friends & family

Our family

Kim & Kyle Evans

In grateful thanksgiving

Our children & grandchildren

For our granddaughters, Sophia, Clara, Ainsley
and one on the way

Given by:

Christopher Schmitt

Kathy & Jack Cobbs

Beth Hixon

Ed & Marsha Hill

Joanne Arnold

Julie Dattilo

Valencia Marrella

Mary & Stanley Martin

Gil Aitken

Ron & Susan Lutz

Given by:

Betsy & Charles Dell

Dodi & Marie Kearns

Ben & Tanya Millet

Tom & Cathy Bailey

Joanne Arnold

Peggy & Larry Way

Julie Dattilo

Mary Thompson

Mary & Stanley Martin

Vickie Cox & family

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

209 S. Third Avenue, Royersford, PA 19468

610-948-9655

WWW.EPIPHANYSTAR.NET

WORSHIP SERVICES

MIDWEEK HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HEALING LITANY

10:15AM WEDNESDAYS

SUNDAY

8AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I (SPOKEN)

10AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II (MUSIC)

THE REV. BETH W. HIXON, RECTOR

215-896-0828 OR RECTOR@EPIPHANYSTAR.NET

DODI KEARNS, MUSIC DIRECTOR

ROBIN SMITH, ORGANIST

PAUL EXLEY, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR