

GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

April 16, 2022
7 o'clock

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Cell phones are silenced at this time.

The church is in darkness. The ministers and people gather on the courtyard near the entrance of the church and the New Fire is kindled. After you light your candle from the Pascal Candle, you will be led into the nave. Please continue to hold your lighted candle while the acolytes light the candles along the aisle.

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

The Priest blesses the New Fire.

Priest 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 Priest inscribes the Paschal Candle.

Priest Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End. Alpha and Omega. His are the times and ages. To him be glory and dominion through all ages of eternity. **Amen.**

Priest Through his holy and glorious wounds may Christ the Lord guard and preserve us.

The Priest lights the Paschal Candle from the New Fire.

Priest May the light of Christ gloriously rising dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The Pascal Candle is carried ahead of the ministers and people into the church. The procession pauses at the door of the church and twice more as it continues up the aisle, each time the cantor chants at a higher pitch, the people responding:

Cantor *People*

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor' and the second 'People'. Both staves are in G-clef (treble clef) and have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Cantor's part is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The People's part is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The piece ends with a double bar line.

The Exsultet

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

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,
Bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame,
pray with me to God the Almighty
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light;
through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God

Cantor *People*



... for ev-er and ev - er. A - men.

Cantor



The Lord be with you.

People



And al - so with you.

Cantor



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Priest It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

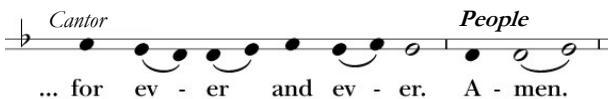
This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

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

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

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns.



All are seated. The people extinguish their candles.

Priest Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The 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.

Continued

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.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be the God.**

All remain seated.

Hymn 385 Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works

Dakota Indian Chant



1 Man - y and great, O God, are thy works, mak - er of
2 Grant un - to us com - mun - ion with thee, thou star - a -



earth and sky; thy hands have set the hea - vens with stars;
bid - ing one; come un - to us and dwell with us;



thy fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at thy
with thee are found the gifts of life. Bless us with



word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey thy voice.
life that has no end, e - ter - nal life with thee.

All stand.

Priest 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.**

All are seated.

The Second Lesson: Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

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.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be the God.**

Remain seated.

Canticle 8: The Song of Moses

St. Martin's Psalter

Cantor then the people sing the antiphon



I will sing to the Lord who has tri-umphed glo-rious - ly.

I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;

horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my might,

and he has become my salvation;

this is my God, and I will praise him,

my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a warrior;

the Lord is his name.

Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;

his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them;

they went down into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—

your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.

The people sing the antiphon

In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;

you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.

At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,

the floods stood up in a heap;

the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake,

I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.

I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them."

You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;

they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

The people sing the antiphon

‘Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendour, doing wonders?
You stretched out your right hand,
the earth swallowed them.
In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.
You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession,
the place, O Lord, that you made your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.’

The people sing the antiphon

All stand.

Priest 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.

All are seated.

The Third Lesson: Ezekiel 36:24-28

A new heart and a new spirit

Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be the God.**

Remain seated.

Psalm 42 As Panting Deer Desire the Waterbrooks *Sung by all.*

Woodlake



1. As pant - ing deer de - sire the wa - ter - brooks
2. Both day and night my tears have been my food,
3. Why are you heav - y - heart - ed, O my soul?



when wan - dering in a dry and des - ert place, so years my thirs - ty soul for
while scof - fers taunt me, "Where is your God now?" My soul dis - solves as I re -
And why are you so mired in deep dis - cord? Still put your hope and trust in



you, O God, and longs at last to see you face to face.
call the throng whose pil - grim hymns I led to Zi - on's brow.
God a - lone, whom I will praise, my Sav - ior and my Lord.

All stand.

Priest Let us pray. *Silence.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All are seated.

The Fourth Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel, walks in seeming confused.

The valley of dry bones

Oh Ezekiel, you look cold, come in and join us at our campfire.

You can not imagine what just happened to me. Can you believe it. I was walking along minding my own business (which is usually what I'm trying to do when God gets a hold of me) and all of a sudden I felt God grabbed me from behind and the Spirit picked me up and dropped me in the middle of a dry desert valley. I mean it was so dry there was nothing there except old dry bones, just lying around everywhere.

Well God asked me that kind of question that God likes to ask, you know the ones that seem like they have a simple answer but when it's God asking you they never do. God said, "Ezekiel, can these dead dry bones live again?"

Well I knew the answer was no, dead bones are dead bones after all. But seeing as how it was God, I thought I could avoid getting tricked by answering, "Oh Lord God, you know the answer."

Well I thought I was pretty clever, but then do you know what God asked me to do next? He said, "Ezekiel, tell those bones, that God has a message for them and the message is, 'I, God, will make you live again, I will make you breath, I will make muscles and skin to cover you again and you will be alive again and then will know that I am the Lord God.'"

Well, I was thinking, "God you have got to be crazy." But of course I'm not about to say "no" to God. So I took a deep breath and thought, "what the heck" and gave it a try not really expecting much except to look a bit foolish standing there talking to a bunch of dead bones.

I almost fell over in shock when in the middle of my talking to these dead bones, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones started putting themselves back together.

Continued . . .

I blinked because I thought I was seeing things, but as I looked again, and there were muscles and skin on them; instead of talking to a pile of bones, I was facing lifeless people, their bodies were there, but there was no breath in them.

Then God said to me, "Call out to the breath that fills us with life, and tell that breath that God has a message for it and the message is, "I, God, command you to Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these bones, so that they will be alive."

Well I'm starting to see where God is going here but, I'm also a little scared by this point because I'm wondering what is going to happen after God has me talking in his name to a valley full of people brought back to life. Wouldn't you be a bit worried?

But I've given up thinking that I can get out of this by now. This is God telling me what to do, could you say no to God?

So I called out to the breath of life just like God said, and the breath came into that valley full of lifeless people, and they lived, and stood on their feet, I was surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of living people.

Do you know what God said next? He told me, "Ezekiel, these bones are the whole of my people of Israel. They may think that their bones are dried up, and they are completely without hope."

"But Ezekiel, I want you to tell them that their God has a message for them and the message is: I will give your dry bones life! And I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I do these amazing things."

Then, I blinked and it was all gone, I was right back where I was before God got a hold of me. Boy am I glad I found you all to tell this too or else I would just think it was a dream. But it was real it was so real.

All remain seated.

Psalm 30 *Exaltabo te, Domine*

Cantor then the people sing the antiphon



I will ex - alt you, O Lord, be - cause you have lift - ed me up.

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.

The people sing the antiphon

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.

The people sing the antiphon

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 sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

The people sing the antiphon

Priest 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.**

Priest **T**hrough 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 Baptismal Covenant *All Stand.*

Priest **D**o you believe in God the Father?

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

Priest 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.

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.

Priest 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.

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

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

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

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

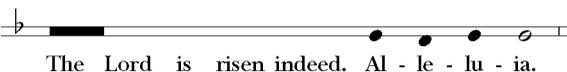
Priest Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

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

AT THE EUCHARIST

The Easter Acclamation is chanted three times.

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

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

The candles on the altar are lighted from the Pascal Candle. Bells are rung.

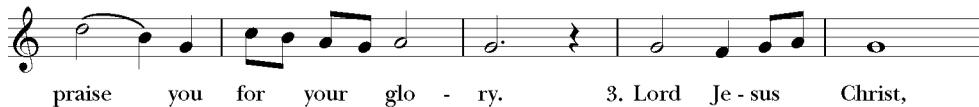
Glory to God Gloria in excelsis

William Mathias (b. 1934)


1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and


peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -


might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we


praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



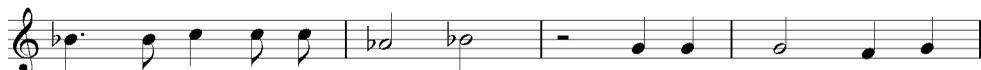
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

God of new creation, from the womb of earth you raised the Lord of life: may we receive the word of women who braved the soldier's spears and met him in the dawning light; may we live with morning joy that love will never die, through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. **Amen.**

Romans 6:3-11

As Christian disciples have been joined with Christ in his death through baptism, so they are to know a resurrection life like his. In union with Christ we have died to our sinful selves and have begun to experience a new way of life. In one sense our freedom from death still awaits us in the future, but, in another sense, we already know what it means to be alive to God in Christ Jesus and to realize the true meaning of life.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Standing or kneeling.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessions for the Christian People

Leader Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! At this the heavenly choirs of angels rejoice, the earth exults, and mother church is glad. Therefore I ask you, who praise the loving-kindness of almighty God, to join in prayer for all of God's people, and for all people everywhere according to their needs. That all may know the benefits of the paschal victory of Christ, we pray, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader Almighty and merciful God, we give you thanks for those who have come through the waters of rebirth into the promised land of your eternal kingdom. Guide all your baptized people who struggle to know and to do your will in the kingdoms of this world, that by their lives they may show forth the new life in Christ to all nations. Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Leader We give you thanks for those who struggle for peace and justice in the world. Guide their efforts, that they may act with prudence and vision to plant the signs of your dominion in the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Leader We give you thanks that Mary Magdalene found healing in the encounter with the risen Christ. Give wholeness and peace to all those in need: the sick [*N.*], the unloved and the forgotten, the poor and the hungry, the dying and the bereaved [*N.*]. Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Leader We give you thanks for the abiding presence of your Son in the word and sacrament. As we feast this Easter Day on the true bread from heaven, set our minds on things above, that we may gain a new perspective on the things that are on earth. Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Leader We give you thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith, who now rest from their labors awaiting the resurrection to eternal life [*especially N.*]. May we, like them, remain faithful to the end and share in the fruits of the victory of Christ, the paschal lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Priest **H**ear our prayers on behalf of those for whom we pray, and give us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen and exalted Lord.

The Peace *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Easter Greeting & Offertory

Priest Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem Now the Green Blade Rises

arr. Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:

*Love is come again
like wheat that springeth green.*

In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: *Refrain*

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen: *Refrain*

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: *Refrain*

Offertory Green Hymnal 788 As Newborn Stars Were Stirred to Song

Alexandra

The Choir sings the first stanza; All sings stanzas 2—4.

est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Priest Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Priest We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **A-MEN.**

The Post-Communion Prayer

Priest Let us pray.

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 Blessing

Priest Living Lord, whose love displaced the gravity of stone; you entrusted women, who loved beyond death, with news of resurrection: we praise you for the open gospel which ends where Easter faith begins; accept our fear, our disbelief, and take us into this new world led by the risen Son; through Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead. Amen.

Closing Hymn 199 Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

St. Kevin

Priest 

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



al-le - lu - ia.

People 

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

Postlude O Give Thanks to the Lord, Who Is Good

Heinz Werner Zimmermann (1930-2022)

The people are invited to listen and observe silence during the postlude.

Easter flowers are given to the glory of God by

The Rev. Laurel & Peter Coote in memory of our parents & siblings

Margo Fuselier in memory of Donald Fuselier

Beth & Joe Heston in thanksgiving for family

Lois Kettel in memory of Lou Kettel

Don & Judy Kirk in memory of Hazel & Shallus Kirk and Marcella & John Sand

Mary Layman in memory of Oscar Layman & Lorraine Layman

Shirley & Hersch Loomis in thanksgiving for family

Susan & Tom Lowder in memory of Dick Carrington & Jarman Lowder

Star Reierson in memory of Lawrence Reierson

Jean Scholefield in memory of Wilfred Scholefield

Mary Seiersen in memory of Dorothea McClelland Whittington

Bill & Cathy Solms in memory of family members

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WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

WELCOME!

Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomen's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

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