

St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church

March 31, 2024 6:00 AM

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Worship Leader may address the people in these or similar words

Worship Leader:

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.

Deacon:

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: We ask your blessing upon this new fire, and grant that in the 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 (if present) is then lighted from the newly kindled fire.) The Deacon lights her candle, then says the following three times

The light of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Participants may light their own candles at home.

Then the Deacon, or other person appointed, holding their lighted candle, sings or says the Exsultet, as follows (the indicated sections may be omitted)

Deacon:

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 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, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **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 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 for ever and ever. *Amen.*

It is customary that the Paschal Candle burn at all services from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Worship Leader may introduce the Scripture readings in these or similar words

Worship Leader:

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.

At least two of the following Lessons are read, of which one is always the Lesson from Exodus. After each Lesson, the Psalm or Canticle listed, or some other suitable psalm, canticle, or hymn may be sung. A period of silence may be kept; and the Collect provided, or some other suitable Collect, may be said.

Reader 1: Kim Hunter

The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 BCP page 789

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.

Reader 2: Chip Camden

The Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Psalm 46 BCP page 649

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty 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 sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reader 3 Cherie Hample:

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Canticle 8, *The Song of Moses* BCP page 85

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.**

Reader 4: Nancy Jo Bleier

A new heart and a new spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Psalm 42 BCP page 643

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.**

Reader 5: Mandy Evans

The gathering of God's people

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm 98 BCP page 727

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.**

In the absence of candidates for Baptism or Confirmation, the Worship Leader leads the people in the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, either here or after the Gospel. The Worship Leader may first address the people in these or similar words, all standing

Worship Leader:

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

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

People **I do.**

Worship Leader Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Worship Leader 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.**

Worship Leader 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.**

Worship Leader 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.**

Worship Leader 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.**

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

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

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

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

Worship Leader 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 Worship Leader 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.**

Worship Leader: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Worship Leader says the following Collect

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only- begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Worship Leader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered at this time.

The Worship Leader adds the following Collect:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Worship Leader The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Deacon:
The Lord's Prayer

Deacon:
The Dismissal

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Pearl of the Week

Holy One, thank you for the dawn of each new day. Open me to your light and hope and the promise of new life you give. In the name of the Risen Christ, I pray. Amen. *(From Fifty Days of Easter, 2023)*

Serving today

Reader 1	Kim Hunter
Reader 2	Chip Camden
Reader 3	Cherie Hample
Reader 4	Nancy Jo Bleier
Reader 5	Mandy Evans
Voice of the People	Nancy Jo Bleier
Worship Leader	Kit Allgood-Mellema
Deacon	Rev. Deacon Kathryn Snelling
Rector	Rev. Julie Platson

March 31: Easter Sunday Service @ 10am (in person/on zoom/phone)

St Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church
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