

EASTER VIGIL ~ 2026

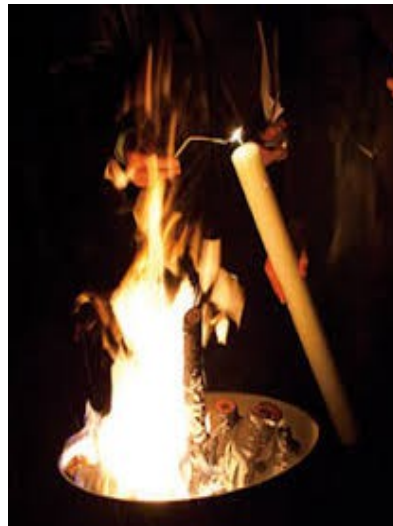
THE SOLEMN BEGINNING OF THE VIGIL

Dear 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.

BLESSING OF THE EASTER FIRE

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 splendour. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EXSULTET ~ EASTER PROCLAMATION



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Dear 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.

First Reading ~ GENESIS 1:1, 26-31 (shortened version)
'God saw everything that he had made and it was very good.'

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And 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 heavens, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on 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 heavens, 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. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

PSALM 104(103):1-2a. 5-6. 10, 12. 13-14. 24, 35c.

Response: *Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honour, wrapped in light as with a robe!

You set the earth on its foundation, immovable from age to age.

You wrapped it with the depths like a cloak; the waters stood higher than the mountains.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow in between the hills.

There the birds of heaven build their nests; from the branches they sing their song.

From your dwelling you water the mountains; by your works the earth has its fill. You make the grass grow for the cattle and plants to serve mankind's need, that he may bring forth bread from the earth.

How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Let us Pray: 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.

Second Reading ~ EXODUS 14:15-15:1

The people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground.

The LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.'

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

CANTICLE ~ EXODUS 15 (Hymn of victory after crossing the Red Sea)

Response: *Let us sing to the LORD, glorious his triumph.*

Let us sing to the LORD who has gloriously triumphed; horse and rider he has hurled into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and might; 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.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he has cast into the sea.

The waters of the flood covered over them; they went down to the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O LORD, majestic in power; your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

You will bring them in and plant them upon the mount of your inheritance: the place which you,

O LORD, have made your dwelling, the holy place, O LORD, that your hands have established.

The LORD will reign for ever and ever.

Let us Pray: 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.

Third Reading ~ ISAIAH 55:1-11

'Come to the waters; hear, that your soul may live.'

Thus says the LORD: 'Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

'Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

CANTICLE ~ ISAIAH 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. (The rejoicing of a redeemed people)

Response: *With joy will you draw water from the springs of salvation.*

Behold, God is my salvation! I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD is my strength and my praise, and he has been my salvation. With joy will you draw water from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name; make known among the peoples his deeds;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders; let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

Fourth Reading ~ EZEKIEL 36:16-17a, 18-28

'I will sprinkle clean water on you and I will give you a new heart.'

The word of the LORD came to me: 'Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds. So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood that they had shed in the land, for the idols with which they had defiled it. I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries. In accordance with their ways and their deeds I judged them. But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that people said of them, "These are the people of the Lord, and yet they had to go out of his land." But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came.

'Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. 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 on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

PSALM 42(41):3. 5b-d. PSALM 43(42):3. 4.

Response: *Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God.*

My soul is thirsting for God, the living God;
when can I enter and appear before the face of God?

For I would go to the place of your wondrous tent,
all the way to the house of God, amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving.

O send forth your light and your truth; they will guide me on.
They will bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.

And I will come to the altar of God, to God, my joy and gladness.
To you will I give thanks on the harp, O God, my God.

Let us Pray: 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.

The 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.

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.

Fifth Reading ~ ROMANS 6:3-11

'Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again.'

Brothers and Sisters: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were buried, therefore, with him by baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now 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. For 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 WORD OF THE LORD

PSALM 117(118): 1-2,16-17,22-23

Response: *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Give praise to the LORD, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Let the house of Israel say, 'His mercy endures for ever.'

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The LORD's right hand is exalted. The LORD's right hand has done mighty deeds.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done, a marvel in our eyes.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

EASTER GOSPEL ~ MATTHEW 28:1-10

'He has risen and he is going before you to Galilee.'

After the Sabbath, towards the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.' So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came up and took hold

of his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

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.

The Litany

The Blessing of Water

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The Sacrament of Confirmation

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Offerings

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.

Easter Preface

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. 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.

Solemn Blessing

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

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

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. 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. Amen.