

St. Stephen's

The Episcopal Church in Sierra Vista, Arizona – April 15, 2017

The Great Vigil of Easter

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant addresses the people:

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.*

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and bearing the Candle, the Celebrant leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing

The Light of Christ - *Hymnal S-68*

People: Thanks be to God.

Candles are lighted from the Paschal Candle at this time. Other candles and lamps in the church, except for those at the Altar, may also be lighted. The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand. Then the Deacon, or other person appointed, standing near the Candle, sings or says the Exsultet, as follows

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.*

Congregational Responses - Hymnal S-69

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant

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 Story of Creation - Genesis 1:1-2:2

Hymn # 580 – God who stretched the spangled heavens

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.**

The Flood Story – Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Hymn #679 Surely it is God who saves me

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.**

Parting of the Red Sea - Exodus 14:10 – 15:1
Hymn G79

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 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*

A New Heart and a New Spirit - Ezekiel 36:24-28
Psalm 43: :Please join the choir in singing the refrain

Send out your light and your truth that they may lead me.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves: a vocal line at the top, a piano accompaniment on the right, and a bass line at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

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.*

The Gathering of God's People - Zephaniah 3:12-20
Psalm 98: Please join the choir in singing the refrain

All the ends of the earth have seen the sal - va - tion of our God.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves: a vocal line at the top, a piano accompaniment on the right, and a bass line at the bottom. The key signature is three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands, with a triplet of eighth notes in the vocal line.

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.*

The Church is Lighted

The candles at the Altar may now be lighted from the Paschal Candle

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

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

Gloria - Hymn S-280

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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 for ever. *Amen.*

Epistle - Romans 6:3-11

Sequence Hymn G-447, Easter Alleluia

The Gospel – Matthew 28:1-10

The Homily

Victor Sarrazin

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: 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 Prayers

Celebrant: Let us pray for the renewal of our spirits and for all persons who receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Celebrant: Deliver us, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Open our hearts to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Fill us with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Keep us in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Send us into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Grant, O Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant sprinkles the people with holy water.

The Peace

The Offertory - Presentation of Our Gifts

Hymn No. 199 – Come Ye Faithful

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A - Book of Common Prayer, p. 361

S130

BCP p. 362

♪ **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. ♪

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**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.**

or

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil;
for the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

The Breaking of Bread - S-154

**♪[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]♪**

Communion Hymn G-806, Repeat as necessary

Post Communion Prayer

BCP p. 366

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn No. 175, Hail the Festival day



The Easter Flowers – inside and out -- are given to the Glory of God and

- *Thanksgiving for the support of our children William, John, Casey, Cathy, Karrie & Erika and in memory of our parents and friends who have passed.....* Bill & Ann Carswell
- *Memory of our Parents* Mindy & Bill Saunders
- *Thanksgiving for all of God's Blessings.....* Fr. Donne Puckle
- *Memory of Sam Stone & Larry Millard.....* Doris Millard
- *Memory of my husband Haro & my parents Paulyne and John Tompkins.....* Paula Jones
- *On memory of family members.....* Harriot Kolen
- *On memory of Walter Wick.....* Pat Wick
- *On memory of my husband, Robert Conley Jr. and Thanksgiving for my family.....* Marietta Conley

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