

Diocesan Commission for Liturgy

The Easter Vigil

Introduction:

We celebrate the truly blessed Night on which earth was wedded to heaven, and all men and women to God. On that Night of Nights, through His Resurrection, Jesus passed from this world to His Father. In memory of that great day, we gather in waiting. We also remember the passing of each one of us from the death of sin to a new life of grace in Him. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The Paschal Vigil Service has four parts:

- ⦿ **THE LITURGY OF THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**
- ⦿ **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**
- ⦿ **THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM**
- ⦿ **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

THE LITURGY OF THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Tonight's solemn liturgy begins with the Blessing of the Fire outside the Church. We are standing in an unlit Church to remind us of the dark despair of the tomb. But as we shall see, even that, cannot destroy our hope of New Life because Christ himself came into the world to bring us out of darkness into the light. The fire outside, tells us that the Cross did not destroy Jesus' divine life.

The celebrant will now bless the new fire.

[Sign of the Cross; Introductory words by the celebrant; Prayer Blessing the Fire]

The Paschal Candle will now be blessed.

The Celebrant traces a Cross on the Easter Candle. Then he traces the Greek Letter *ALPHA* above the Cross, the Letter *OMEGA* below and the numerals of the Current Year between the arms of the Cross. The Celebrant then inserts five grains of incense into the Candle. He does this in the form of a Cross.

[Celebrant's words while tracing the Letters & Digits on the Candle & inserting the Incense Grains]

Celebrant's words while tracing the Letters & Digits on the Candle & inserting the Incense Grains

The Paschal Candle represents the Risen Christ. He, who is Son of God, became alive again in body and soul, to share His risen life with us in baptism and to make us children of God. The Christ Candle will receive its light from the blessed fire. From this flame, we light up our small candles, that we may be awakened to the gentle light of Christ who is truly the light of the world. Just as the children of Israel were guided at night by a pillar of fire, so Christians will follow the Risen Christ. At the priest's invitation, we respond, joyfully acclaiming and venerating the Risen Jesus.

Priest Lights The Candle From The New Fire

1. *Celebrant: "The Light of Christ." (While he lights his candle)*

Narrator: All: "Thanks be to God."

2. *Celebrant: "The Light of Christ." (While all ministers & congregation light their candle)*

Narrator: All: "Thanks be to God."

3. *Celebrant: "The Light of Christ." (All lights of the Church are switched on, only Altar Candles not lit)*

Narrator: All: "Thanks be to God."

[To Be Read As The New Paschal Candle Is Being Placed on The Stand By The Altar And The Church Lights Are Being Switched On.]

Narrator:

The Easter Proclamation or the *Exsultet* is the most ancient hymn sung in honour of the Paschal Candle which represents Christ. It speaks of the liberation of Israel in the Exodus, of the liberation of Jesus in His resurrection and of the baptismal liberation that every Christian experiences.

The Easter Proclamation: [THE EASTER PROCLAMATION is sung]

Liturgy Of The Word

[The Celebrant's prayer: Dear brothers and sisters fullness of redemption]

Narrator:

By the glow of the Paschal Candle, we turn to the scriptural story of our salvation. In the readings, we look back to the dawn of creation ... we agonize and then rejoice with Abraham over his son Isaac ... we pass through the Red Sea with the Israelites and are then led through the saving waters of our Baptism. As we listen to these great foundational stories each

year, we are amazed as to what God has done and continues to do for us from the very beginning of time. Truly, God moves in the most mysterious ways to prove his profound love for us, his children. The covenants of Eden, of Noah, Abraham, and Moses will never be forgotten.

READINGS

Gloria

Let us Pray, New Testament Reading, Gospel Acclamation, Gospel

HOMILY

LITURGY OF BAPTISM (If there are adult Baptisms)

We have now a Baptismal Service, during which the water used for baptism tonight and during the whole Easter season, and for the blessing of the houses as well, will be blessed solemnly.

Today, three of our parishioners, will be baptized and will rise to a new life in Christ. At this Easter Vigil, we as a community welcome them and support them with our prayers. They will now be called to participate in the Baptismal Rite.

LITANY OF SAINTS

Blessing of Water: The water is blessed with a prayer that recalls biblical events in the history of our salvation. The priest will lower the Easter Candle into the water. Blessed with the Light of the Risen Christ, this water is now empowered to chase away the darkness of sin.

[The Candle is taken out of the Water ... Acclamation]

Baptism: Pooja Kamath, Manisha Karande and Prashant Tambe are going to receive Baptism. The preparatory rites have been already performed. They will proclaim their faith before they receive the risen Life of Christ. Let us pray for them.

[Celebrant: “..... I baptise you Holy Spirit. After all are baptised, the acclamation is sung???”]

CONFIRMATION

These new Christians will now receive the sacramental gift of the Holy Spirit, who confirms them in the faith and gives them the light and strength to bear witness to it. They will complete their initiation into Christ by participating fully with us in the Eucharistic Sacrifice and Meal.

[After the Rite of Baptism & Confirmation has been completed]

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

At Baptism, we too rose to new life with Christ. Let us now light our candles from the Paschal Candle and then renew our Baptismal experience. Kindly stand holding your lit candle and respond accordingly.

[Celebrant prays: “God, the all-powerful Father forever & ever.” All: “Amen”]

Rite of Sprinkling: As the celebrant sprinkles the holy water on us all, let us sing joyfully to express our union with the Risen Lord.

[After sprinkling the congregation with the Blessed Water the Priest returns to his chair, omitting the Creed]

INTERCESSIONS

CELEBRANT: On this night of enduring Love, the Church awakens us to Christ’s gentle light. We turn to the Father with our prayers.

RESPONSE: Lord, hear our prayer

READER:

- **For All Christians:** that by the Light of the Resurrection and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we will be strengthened to proclaim Jesus boldly, by the way we live ... we pray ... **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- **For People living across All Nations:** that, just as the beginning of Spring brings new life to the earth, the Spirit of God will sweep over the world enabling all people to live in safety, freedom and with respect ... we pray ... **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- **For All those who are Newly Baptized:** that they will offer their hearts to Jesus in friendship and find in the Catholic faith the meaning and happiness for which their hearts yearn ... we pray ... **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For People who are Care-givers to the Sick: that the Risen Lord will enable them to know His presence in the challenge of each day ... we pray ... Lord, hear our prayer.
- For all Families in the Parish: that having been washed in the Waters of Life, we will work to deepen family unity and truly forgive all those who have hurt us ... we pray ... Lord, hear our prayer.
- For All of Us Gathered Here: that you, O loving Father will answer the prayer each one of us here, makes in the silence of our hearts ... we pray ... Lord, hear our prayer.

CELEBRANT: Jesus is the Light, who softly brightens our world! He is alive and with us now! Bless us Father, each day, with the assurance of Your Son’s risen presence. We make our prayer through Him, who is Our Lord, now and forever. Amen

PART IV : THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Diocesan Liturgy for Commission

THE Easter vigil

Narrator:

Introduction:

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The celebrant will now bless the new fire.

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The Easter Proclamation: [THE EASTER PROCLAMATION is sung]

Liturgy Of The Word

[The Celebrant's prayer: Dear brothers and sisters fullness of redemption]

For Readings 1-4

Narrator:

By the glow of the Paschal Candle, we turn to the scriptural story of our salvation. In the readings, we look back to the dawn of creation ... we agonize and then rejoice with Abraham over his son Isaac ... we pass through the Red Sea with the Israelites and are then led through the saving waters of our Baptism. As we listen to these great foundational stories each year, we are amazed as to what God has done and continues to do for us from the very beginning of time. Truly, God moves in the most mysterious ways to prove his profound love for us, his children. The covenants of Eden, of Noah, Abraham, and Moses will never be forgotten.

FIRST READING

Book of genesis 1:1-2-2

From the waters of chaos and darkness, God fills the horizon with life. On the night that celebrates the New Creation of our Christian life, let us listen to the story of the First Creation of life from the Book of Genesis, a Passover from darkness to light

SECOND READING

Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18

This story, also from the Book of Genesis, tells of Abraham preparing to sacrifice his only son Isaac to fulfil the traditional Passover sacrifice of that time. Isaac is bound to the wood, unable to escape. Yet we see how God's saving love for Isaac and all mankind gives us a glimpse of the new Passover – from Death to Life.

Third reading

EXODUS 14:15-15:1

Armed with nothing more than the promise of God, a steadfast Moses takes his people on an impossible journey across the sea, knowing that with God 'all is possible'. Let us listen to the story from the Book of Exodus, of a people who walk away from the land of slavery, unharmed by the rushing waters. It is also their Passover from death to life, because they now begin life as a new nation, the chosen people of God.

GLORIA& OPENING PRAYER:

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

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.

Fourth reading

Romans 6:3 -11

In its midst, night carries the promise of light, and sins carry in their hopelessness, the pledge of forgiveness. As we move from the Old Testament to the New, it is also a Passover for us Christians who receive the Good News. St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans marks the decisive turning point in the Vigil Service. We are reminded to constantly seek the Light of Christ which we first received with our baptism.

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