



The Great Vigil of Easter
March 30, 2024 — 700 pm

Christ Church

(Episcopal / Anglican)

Main and Fourth Streets

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The Rev. Don Caron, *Priest*

The Rev. Leslie Mazzacano, *Deacon*

Peter Homon, *Organist*

Joan Sanders, *Parish Secretary*

Christ Church

Riverton, New Jersey

The Great Vigil of Easter

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, *Rite II*

30 March 2024 — 7:00 P.M.

When all have gathered around the place of the Easter Fire

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 Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant may say the following prayer

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 lit from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying

Three Times Deacon: The light of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

Deacon: 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 him 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.*

The Liturgy of the Word

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.

1. The Story of Creation: Genesis 1: 1-2:4A.

After each "day" of creation the cantor will chant,

"God looked at what he'd made and saw that it was good."

The congregation will chant

*"Evening came and morning followed,
the first (second, third...) day.*

Psalm 33:1-11

1 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous; *

it is good for the just to sing praises.

2 Praise the LORD with the harp; *

play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.

3 Sing for him a new song; *

sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

4 For the word of the LORD is right, *

and all his works are sure.

5 He loves righteousness and justice; *

the loving-kindness of the LORD fills the whole earth.

6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, *

by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.

7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *

and stores up the depths of the sea.

8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; *

let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.

9 For he spoke, and it came to pass; *

he commanded, and it stood fast.

10 The LORD brings the will of the nations to naught; *

he thwarts the designs of the peoples.

11 But the LORD'S will stands fast for ever, *

and the designs of his heart from age to age.

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.**

2. Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac Genesis 22:1-18

Psalm 33:12-22

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! *

happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

13 The LORD looks down from heaven, *

and beholds all the people in the world.

14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *

on all who dwell on the earth.

15 He fashions all the hearts of them *

and understands all their works.

16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *

a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.

17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *

for all its strength it cannot save.

18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *

on those who wait upon his love,

19 To pluck their lives from death, *

and to feed them in time of famine.

20 Our soul waits for the LORD; *

he is our help and our shield.

21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *

for in his holy Name we put our trust.

22 Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *

as we have put our trust in you.

Priest: Let us pray. (*Silence*)

God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3. Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea:

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

Canticle 8, *The Song of Moses* (in unison)

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been
drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?

You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up.

With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy
dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant them *
on the mount of your possession,

The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.

The Lord shall reign *
for ever and for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

Amen.

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.**

4. Salvation Freely offered to all: Isaiah 55: 1-11

"Come To The Water"

O let all who thirst Let them come to the water
And let all who have nothing Let them come to the Lord
Without money, without price Why should you pay the price
Except for the Lord?

And let all who seek Let them come to the water
And let all who have nothing Let them come to the Lord
Without money, without strife Why should you spend your
life Except for the Lord?

And let all who toil Let them come to the water
And let all who are weary Let them come to the Lord
All who labor without rest How can your soul find rest
Except for the Lord?

And let all the poor Let them come to the water
And let the ones who are laden Let them come to the Lord
Bring the children without might Easy the load and light
Come to the Lord

Come to the Lord Come to the Lord Come to the Lord

Priest: Let us pray. (*Silence*) O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

5. A New Heart and a New Spirit: Ezekiel 36: 24-28

Psalm 42:1-7

- 1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 *My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the
living God; *when shall I come to appear before
the presence of God?*
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, "Where now is
your God?"
- 4 *I pour out my soul when I think on these things; *
how I went with the multitude and led them into
the house of God,*
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.
- 6 *Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?*
- 7 Put your trust in God; * for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Priest: Let us pray. *(Silence)* Almighty and everlasting God,
who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of rec-
onciliation: 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.*

6. The Valley of Dry Bones: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Psalm 30

- 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.

- 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.
- 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 sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
- 13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

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.*

7. Baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ:

Rom 6: 3-11

Sung Alleluia Bells are rung

Refrain Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

1. Now he is living, the Christ. Out of the tomb he is risen;
he has conquered death, opened heaven to all believers.
2. Christ is the first fruits from death, filling the church with his
glory! Darkness vanishes in the light of his power.

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Homily

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

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Glory to God Hymn S-280 (bells are rung throughout)

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

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.*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Priest: Let us pray. 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..***

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

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.

Priest: Do you renounce evil and renew your commitment to
Jesus Christ?

People: ***I do.***

Priest: Do 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.***

The Priest: 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.***

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Priest: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The People are sprinkled with the new water of Baptism

Music

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Offertory Solo *“The Day Of Resurrection”*

Ellacombe

Offertory Prayer Eucharistic Prayer C

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Priest: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: ***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

Priest: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: ***By your will they were created and have their being.***

Priest: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: ***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Priest: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: ***By his blood, he reconciled us.***

By his wounds, we are healed.

Priest: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

***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.***

Priest: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

***Risen Lord, be known to us
in the breaking of the Bread.***

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *People and Priest:*

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Invitation

Communion Solo

"How Deep The Father's Love For Us" S. Townsend

After Communion, the Priest says

Let us pray.

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.

Final Blessing

Recessional Hymn 207 *"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"*

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude *"Hallelujah Chorus"*

G. F. Handel

Participating in the Service

Soloist: Eli Goldberg

Readers: Joanne Grimes, Joe Yansick, Andrew Yansick,
Richard Gaughan, Mel Caron, Joseph Horn

Acolyte: Jeff Mack *Ushers:*

Altar Guild: Joan Atkinson, Martha Caiazzo, Sheryl Talford

Videographer: Linda Yansick

Counters: Joan Atkinson, Marge Conti

+ + +

Easter Flower Memorials 2024

The flowers in the church were given

to the glory of God

and in loving memory of:

Cynthia Commaroto	Milton Horner	Marjorie Kathryn
Richard Ross	John Thomas	Shea
George Mack	Wargny	Howard L. Shea
Miriam Mack	Thomas Wargny	John Y. Radcliff
Nancy Gorman	Richard Frost	Joyce Morozin
William Mack	Joseph Horrell	Richard M.
Dorothy Mack	Naomi David	Ackerman
Lt. Col. Kevin Hermann	Helen Engel	Robert & Kathryn
Florence Gorman	Dorothy Scheetz	Messemger
Albert Gorman	Bill & Marilgn Flanagan	In Thanksgiving
Sam Wargny	Ted & Kitty Kaiser	for Our family,
Mary Jane Wargny	Frank Grocott	Larry and Terri
Jay Wargny	Jim Telford	Bradshaw
Elaine Jones	Bob & Mary	
Charles Jones	Otterstein	
Harold Bishop	John & Jaclyn Bosak	
Ron Pollock	Dr. Ronald J. Pollock	