



ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH

EASTER VIGIL

APRIL 12, 2020

WELCOME

Presider

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy morning, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to observe vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and later by 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 candle that burns with 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 Lord. *Amen.*

THE EXSULTET

Book of Common Prayer p. 286

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.

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 morn, when you brought forth our fathers and mothers, the children of Israel,
out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the morn, 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 morn, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

Holy Father, accept our morning 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.

John C. Stowe Jr., *cantor*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 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 air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon 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 air, 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. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

MEDITATION

The Rev'd James E. Quigley

COLLECT

Sanctify this holy sabbath day, dear Lord, and grant that we may so burn with heavenly desires that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of your everlasting light, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Many and great, O God, are your works, Maker of earth and sky.
 Your hands have set the heavens with stars; your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
 You merely spoke and waters were formed; deep seas obey your voice.
 Grant us communion with you, our God, though you transcend the stars.
 Come close to us and stay by our side: with you are found the true gifts that last.
 Bless us with life that never shall end, eternal life with you.*

The choral meditations for this service are taken from archived recordings of St. Alban's Easter Vigil 2019,
 conducted by Jeremy Filsell, former Director of Music.

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-15:1

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.' Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.' The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.' Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: 'I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

COLLECT

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.*

CHORAL MEDITATION

In exitu Israel

Vincenzo Galilei

*In exitu Israel de Aegypto domus Iacob de populo barbaro, Facta est Iudaea sanctificatio eius Israel potestas eius,
Mare vidit et fugit Iordanis conversus est retror sum, Montes exultaverunt ut arietes colles sicut agni ovium,
Quid est tibi mare quod fugisti et tu Iordanis quia conversus es retrorsum,
Montes exultastis sicut arietes et colles sicut agni ovium.*

[When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a strange people: Judea made his sanctuary and Israel his dominion. The sea saw that and fled: Jordan was driven back. The mountains skipped like rams, and ye little hills like young sheep. What aileth thee, O thou sea that thou fleddest, and thou, O Jordan, that thou wast turned back? Ye mountains that ye skipped like rams, and ye little hills like young sheep.]

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL

Isaiah 55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have 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 labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, 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 their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says 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 until they have watered 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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

MEDITATION

The Rev'd Emily Griffin

COLLECT

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.*

*Dextera Domini fecit virtutem, dextera Domini exaltavit me;
non moriar non moriar, sed vivam, sed vivam, sed vivam, et narrabo opera Domini.*
[The right hand of the Lord has wrought virtue. The right hand of the Lord has exalted me.
I will not die, but I will live. And I will declare the works of the Lord.]

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

MEDITATION

The Rev'd Geoffrey M. St J. Hoare

COLLECT

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.***

CHORAL MEDITATION

Breathe on me, breath of God

18th c. Book of Psalmody

*Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.
Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with Thee I will one will, to do and to endure.
Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly thine, until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.
Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.*

Presider 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.

- Presider** Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
- People** *I do.*
- Presider** Do you believe in God the Father?
- People** *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*
- Presider** 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.*
- Presider** 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.*
- Presider** 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.*
- Presider** 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.*
- Presider** Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
- People** *I will, with God's help.*
- Presider** Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- People** *I will, with God's help.*
- Presider** 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.*
- Presider** 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.*
- Presider** Let us bless the Lord.
- People** *Thanks be to God.*

Please join us for the Easter Acclamation in our Easter Day virtual worship service.



ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH

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