

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
**The Great Vigil Of Easter**  
**Saturday, April 3rd**

**The Lighting of the Paschal Candle**

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.*

**Exsultet**

Fr. Harold

**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**

(Reader)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Celebrant: 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.*

**Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea: Exodus 14:10 - 15:1**

(Reader)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Celebrant: 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.*

**Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac: Genesis 22:1-18**

(Reader)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Celebrant: 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.*

## **The Valley of Dry Bones: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

(Reader)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Celebrant: 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.**

## **Baptism: Infants and Younger Children**

*The candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows*

Parents and Godparents: I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents:* Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children*

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer: I do.

*After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying:* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

**People:** *We will.*

*The Celebrant then says these or similar words:* Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## **Baptismal Covenant**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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.*

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.*

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.*

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.**

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

**People: I will, with God's help.**

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

**People: I will, with God's help.**

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.**

### **Prayers For The Candidates**

Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

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

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* Open his heart to your grace and truth.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant, O Lord, that all 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 for ever. **Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving Over The Water**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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 Baptism**

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

N. you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

***Amen.***

*Celebrant:* Let us welcome the newly baptized.

***Celebrant and People: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.***

*Baptismal party returns to the pew*

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

### **Gloria:**

***Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

### **Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

***People: And with thy spirit.***

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, who didst make this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in thy Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship thee in sincerity and truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

### **Epistle: Romans 6:3-11**

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that 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 so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10**

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. 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 upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment 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. Lo, 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, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Celebrant: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** *Praise be to thee O Christ.*

### **The Sermon**

The Reverend Harold V. Reed

### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**People:** *It is meet and right so to do.*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

[Proper Preface]

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing.

### **Sanctus (Spoken):**

Celebrant and People: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.*

*Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

Celebrant and People: *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, forever and ever. Amen.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

### **Agnus Dei (Spoken)**

Celebrant and People: *O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

Celebrant and People (spoken): *We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have*

*mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold Him that takest away the sins of the world.

*People: Lord I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.*

### **Communion**

#### **Communion Prayer for those at home:**

Celebrant and People: *My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart, as though you have already come, I embrace You and unite myself with you entirely. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: *Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

#### **The Blessing**

Celebrant: The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you this day and forever. *Amen.*

#### **Dismissal Response**

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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