EASTER VIGIL
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
The Blessing of the Fire
and Lighting of the Easter Candle

The fire and the Paschal Candle are blessed by the bishop. Taking the candle, the deacon leads the procession through the cathedral. While all the candles are lit, he sings three times:

All respond:

The Exsultet
*Sung by the deacon.*

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all the corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.

Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples. Therefore, dearest friends, standing in the awesome glory of this holy light, invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty, that he, who has been pleased to number me, though unworthy, among the Levites, may pour into me this light unshadowed, that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.
It is truly right and just that with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service of our voice, we acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten. Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and, pouring out his own dear Blood, wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness. These, then, are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose blood anoints the doorposts of believers. This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin! This is the night that even now, throughout the world sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones. This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld. Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed. O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer! O truly blessed night, worthy alone to know the time and hour when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night of which it is written: The night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness. The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God's honor, a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R/. Amen.

At this point all extinguish their candles.
**First Reading**—Genesis 1:1 -2:2

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day. Then God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other.” And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome “the sky.” Evening came, and morning followed—the second day. Then God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear.” And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land “the earth,” and the basin of the water he called “the sea.” God saw how good it was. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it.” And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day. Then God said: “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.” And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day. Then God said, “Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.” And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.” Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.” And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the ground.” God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.” God also said: “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.” And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

The word of the Lord. R/. Thanks be to God.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM—Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35

Lord, send out your spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING—Genesis 22:1-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you.” Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him his son Isaac and two of his servants as well, and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust, set out for the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham got sight of the place from afar. Then he said to his servants: “Both of you stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over yonder. We will worship and then come back to you.” Thereupon Abraham took the wood for the holocaust and laid it on his son Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham: “Father!” Isaac said. “Yes, son,” he replied. Isaac continued, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?” “Son,” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust.” Then the two continued going forward. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he tied up his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD’s messenger called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” “Here I am!” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.” As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh; hence people now say, “On the mountain the LORD will see.” Again the LORD’s messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command.”

The word of the Lord. R/. Thanks be to God.
The LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.” The angel of God, who had been leading Israel’s camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians. Then the LORD told Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh’s whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The word of the Lord. R/. Thanks be to God.

Let us sing to the Lord, he has covered himself in glory.
FOURTH READING—Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28

The word of the LORD came to me, saying: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefore I poured out my fury upon them because of the blood that they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols. I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations wherever they came, they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: “These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave their land.” So I have relented because of my holy name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came. I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when in their sight I prove my holiness through you. For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people and I will be your God. The word of the Lord. R/. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM—Psalm 42: 3, 5; 43:3, 4

Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.

GLORIA

Missa Sancti Gabrieli—Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806)

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pac hominibus
bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;
qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram;
qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
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.
**EPISTLE—Romans 6:3-11**

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA**

*The bishop sings the Alleluia three times and all repeat. Afterwards, Psalm 118 is sung.*

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V/. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

R/. Alleluia.

V/. for his mercy endures forever.

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

V/. The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; R/. Alleluia.

V/. the right hand of the LORD is exalted. R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

V/. I shall not die, but live, R/. Alleluia.

V/. and declare the works of the LORD. R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

V/. The stone the builders rejected R/. Alleluia.

has become the cornerstone. R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

V/. By the LORD has this been done; R/. Alleluia.

V/. it is wonderful in our eyes. R/. Alleluia, alleluia.
When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, “Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, “Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. R/. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Baptismal Liturgy

After the sermon the catechumens are called forward. They are then led to the font as the Litany is sung:

V. Lord, have mercy. R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy. R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy. R. Lord, have mercy.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, [ ]
Saint Michael, [ ]
Holy Angels of God, [ ]
Saint John the Baptist, [ ]
Saint Joseph, [ ]
Saint Peter and Saint Paul, [ ]
Saint Andrew, [ ]
Saint John, [ ]
Saint Mary Magdalene, [ ]
Saint Stephen, [ ]
Saint Ignatius of Antioch, [ ]
Saint Lawrence, [ ]
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, [ ]
Saint Agnes, [ ]
Saint Gregory, [ ]
Saint Augustine, [ ]
Saint Athanasius, [ ]
Saint Basil, [ ]
Saint Martin, [ ]
Saint Benedict, [ ]
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic, [ ]
Saint Francis Xavier, [ ]
Saint John Vianney, [ ]
Saint Catherine of Siena, [ ]
Saint Teresa of Jesus, [ ]

All holy men
and women, Saints of God, [ ]

Lord, be merciful, R. Lord, deliver us, we pray.
After the litany concludes the water is blessed. The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are then conferred.
Renewal of Baptismal Promises

All hold lighted candles as the baptismal promises are renewed. The bishop addresses the faithful:

Dear brethren, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:
Do you reject Satan? R/. I do.
And all his works? R/. I do.
And all his empty show? R/. I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? R/. I do.
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? R/. I do.
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? R/. I do.

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. R/. Amen.

The bishop then sprinkles the congregation with blessed water while all sing the following:

I saw water issuing forth from the Temple, on the right side, alleluia; and all those to whom this water came obtained salvation and they exclaimed: Alleluia, alleluia.
**Offertory Chant:** Plainsong, Mode II; Ps. 119:16, 17


*The right hand of the Lord has done valiantly, the right hand of the Lord has exalted me. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. Alleluia.*

**Offertory Motet**

*Surgens Jesus*—Peter Phillips (1560-1628)

Surgens Jesus, Dominus noster
Stans in medio discipulorum suorum dixit:
Pax vobis. Alleluia.
Gavisi sunt discipuli viso Domino,
Alleluia.

*The risen Jesus, our Lord,
Standing in the midst of his disciples, said:
Peace be with you. Alleluia.
The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord., Alleluia.*

**Sanctus**—Mass VIII (de Angelis)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,

Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terrae,

gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis,

Benedictus qui venit in nomine

[Music notation for Sanctus]
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

AGNUS DEI
Missa Sancti Gabrieli—Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Christ our paschal lamb,* has been sacrificed;
let us keep this feast with joy: alleluia, alleluia.

From By Flowing Water, see credit info. on last page.
COMMUNION CHANT—Plainsong, Mode VI; I Corinthians 5:7, 8

Pascha nostrum immolatus est Christus, alleluia: itaque epulemur in azymis sinceritatis, et veritatis, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  

Christ our Paschal lamb is sacrificed, alleluia: therefore let us feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

COMMUNION MOTET

Regina Caeli—Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1735-1791)

Regina cæli, lætare, alleluia.  

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNION

In the Sacred Liturgy, Catholics in a state of grace who have fasted for one hour and who have made a good sacramental confession if they have been conscious of any mortal sin, come forward at Communion to receive Holy Communion. Please remember that the Sacred Host must be consumed immediately in front of the priest or minister. Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to use this time for quiet prayer, thanksgiving and reflection to express a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

DISMISSAL

The deacon sings:

Go forth, the Mass is ended, allelujia, allelujia.

All respond:

Thanks be to God, allelujia, allelujia.
HYMN AT THE CONCLUSION OF MASS

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!

Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he’s king, Alleluia!
Praise him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Words: Surrent Christus hodie, 14th cent.; trans. Nahum Tate (1652-1715)
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