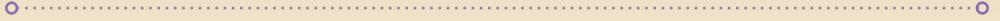


HOLY WEEK

The Easter Vigil

HOME PRAYERS | HOLY SATURDAY



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ABOUT THIS LITURGY | This liturgy was inspired by conversations with the Rev. Dr. James Farwell and Dr. Lisa Kimball at Virginia Theological Seminary after their presentation *Triduum under Quarantine*. This service is an adaptation by Archbishop Melissa Skelton of the Rev. Dr. Kara Mandryk and Bishop William Cliff's adaptation of *Keeping Vigil for the Resurrection at Home* by the Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews, St. Hilda St. Patrick (Edmonds, Washington).



The Cathedral Church of the
Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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The Easter Vigil

HOME PRAYERS | HOLY SATURDAY

Opening Words & Candle Lighting

Place a candle on a table before you. At a time after dark, begin with these words:

One On this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries; we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Light the candle

One The light of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Exsultet

All say the Exsultet together.

All Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

One The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!

This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night when first you saved our forebears:
you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea.

.....

This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.

This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love!
To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.
The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away,
restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy.
Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and we are reconciled with God!
Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night,
receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.
Accept this Easter candle. May it always dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning:
Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead,
and shed his peaceful light on all creation,
your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

The Readings

*Read aloud the following readings from the Hebrew Scriptures.
After each reading share your own story in response to the reading.
After the sharing, one person reads the prayer.*

READING ONE: GOD CREATES THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Genesis 1:1 — 2:4a

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. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

One This is the Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Stories about creation may be shared.

One Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how more wonderful is the new creation by which in the fullness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All **Amen.**

READING TWO: GOD SAVES THE PEOPLE BY TAKING THEM THROUGH THE SEA
A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

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

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 the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand;
and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.
And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

One This is the Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Stories about being delivered from bondage, being saved from danger may be shared.

One God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth through all eternity.
By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered 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.
All **Amen.**

READING THREE: GOD PROMISES US A NEW HEART

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries,
and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes
and be careful to observe my ordinances.
Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors;
and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

One This is the Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Stories about being given a new heart may be shared.

One Almighty and everlasting God,
in the paschal mystery you established the new covenant of reconciliation.
Grant that all who are born again in baptism may show forth in their lives
what they profess by their faith. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

READING FOUR: WE TOO HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE WATERS, LIKE ISRAEL

A Reading from the Book of Romans.

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

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.

One

This is the Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

The story of your own baptism or your confirmation may be shared.

The Easter Gospel

One

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

All

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.

Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples,

‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

One
All

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon—please listen to the Rev. Marnie Peterson’s sermon on the Christ Church Cathedral website at thecathedral.ca/holy-week-and-the-three-days/.

If you are not listening to the sermon, share: What does this Gospel passage mean to you today?

Affirming our Baptismal Faith

All

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;
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.
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. Amen.

With God’s help, I will continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

With God’s help, I will persevere in resisting evil,
and whenever I fall into sin, return to the Lord.

With God’s help, I will proclaim by word and example
the Good News of God in Christ.

With God’s help, I will seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving my neighbour as myself.

With God’s help, I will strive for justice and peace among all people
and respect the dignity of every human being.

With God’s help, I will strive to safeguard the integrity of God’s creation,
and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the Earth.

.....

One God the creator, the rock of our salvation,
has given us new birth by water and the Spirit,
and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ.
May he keep us faithful to our calling.

All **Amen.**

The Prayers

Pray for those in authority.

Pray for the Church, for Archbishop Melissa Skelton and for the laity and clergy of our diocese.

Pray for our partner diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines, the Rt. Rev. Brent Alawas, Bishop.

Pray for the sick and those in need. Pray especially for those who are out of work.

Pray for those working in the healing and healthcare professions.

Pray for those who have died and for those who mourn.

Pray for those to be baptized and confirmed at a later time.

Pray for yourself, your family and friends.

Easter Acclamation

Said three times with gusto!

All **Alleluia, Christ is risen!**
The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Following the Vigil, we encourage you to celebrate with food and drink!



If you enjoyed this home prayer,
please go to
— www.thecathedral.ca/donate —
to make a donation to help us continue
this important ministry.
Thank you!



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