

EASTER VIGIL

NOTES: The Vigil Mass takes place — at an hour best suited to the needs of the people — sometime after nightfall on Saturday and before dawn on Sunday. Nine readings are assigned to the Vigil, but the number may be reduced if circumstances so dictate. Three Old Testament readings should precede the Epistle and Gospel; at least two must be read; and the Third Reading (Exodus 14) must always be used.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1 — 2:2

The beginning of the book of Genesis.

In the beginning,
YHWH created
the heavens and the earth.
But the earth became chaos and emptiness,
and darkness came over the face of the Deep —
yet the Spirit of YHWH was brooding
over the surface of the waters.

Then YHWH said, “Light: Be!” and light was. YHWH saw that light was good, and YHWH separated light from darkness. YHWH called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening came, and morning followed — the first day.

Then YHWH said, “Now, an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!” So it was: YHWH made the expanse and separated the water above the expanse from the water below it. YHWH called the expanse “Sky.” Evening came, and morning followed — the second day.

Then YHWH said, “Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground: appear!” So it was. YHWH called the dry ground “Earth” and the gathering of the waters “Sea.” And YHWH saw that this was good. Then YHWH said, “Earth: produce vegetation — plants that scatter their own seeds, and every kind of fruit tree

that bears fruit with its own seed in it!” So it was: 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. And YHWH saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed — the third day.

Then YHWH said, “Now, lights in the expanse of the sky! Separate day from night! Let them mark the signs and seasons, days and years, and serve as luminaries in the sky, shedding light on the earth.” So it was: YHWH made the two great lights, the greater one to illumine the day, and a lesser to illumine the night.

Then YHWH made the stars as well, placing them in the expanse of the sky, to shed light on the earth, to govern both day and night, and separate light from darkness. And YHWH saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed — the fourth day.

(continued)

YHWH then said, “Waters: swarm with an abundance of living beings! Birds: fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky!” And so it was: YHWH created great sea monsters and all sorts of swimming creatures with which the waters are filled, and all kinds of birds. YHWH saw that this was good and blessed them, saying, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the waters of the seas! Birds, abound on the earth!” Evening came, and morning followed — the fifth day.

Then YHWH said, “Earth: bring forth all kinds of living soul — cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!” So it was: YHWH made all kinds of wild animals, and cattle, and everything that crawls on the ground, and YHWH saw that this was good.

Then YHWH said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.” Humankind was created as YHWH’s reflection: In the divine image

YHWH created them; female and male, YHWH made them.

YHWH blessed them and said, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth — and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things on the earth!” YHWH then told them, “Look! I give you every seed-bearing plant on face of the earth, and every tree whose fruit carries its seed inside itself: they will be your food; and to all the animals of the earth and the birds of the air and things that crawl on the ground — everything that has a living soul in it — I give all the green plants for food.” So it was. YHWH looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good — very good. Evening came, and morning followed — the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed.

On the seventh day YHWH finished all the work of creation, and so, on that seventh day, YHWH rested.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Genesis 22:1-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then YHWH tested Abraham.

“Abraham!” YHWH called. “Here I am,” Abraham replied.

“Take your son,” YHWH said, “your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, ‘Seeing.’ Offer him there as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.”

Rising early the next morning, Abraham saddled a donkey and took along two workers and his son Isaac. Abraham chopped wood for the burnt offering, and started on the journey to the place YHWH showed them. On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then Abraham said to the workers, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and come back to you.”

Abraham took wood for the burnt offering and gave it to Isaac to carry. In his own hands he carried the fire and the knife. Then the two of them went on alone.

Isaac said, “Father!” “Here I am, my child,” Abraham replied.

“Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

Abraham answered, “My child, YHWH will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.”

Then the two of them went on together. When they arrived at the place YHWH had pointed out, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he tied up his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill the child.

But the angel of YHWH called to him from heaven: “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am!” he replied.

“Do not raise your hand against the boy!” the angel said. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how deeply you revere YHWH, since you did not refuse me your son, your only child.”

Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. He went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his child. Abraham called the place “YHWH Provides,” and so is said to this day: “On this mountain YHWH provides.”

The angel of God called Abraham a second time from heaven, and said,

“I swear by myself —
it is YHWH who speaks —
because you have done this,
because you have not refused me your son, your only child,
I will shower blessings on you;
I will make your descendants as many
as the stars of heaven
and the grains of sand on the seashore.
Your descendants will possess
the gates of their enemies,
and in your descendants
all the nations of the earth will find blessing —
all this because you obeyed my command.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Third Reading: Exodus 14:15-15:1

A reading from the book of Exodus.

YHWH said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to march on.

And you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea, and split the sea in two, so that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. I will make the hearts of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will come in after you, and I will glorify myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all the army, chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians will know that I am YHWH, when I glorify myself over Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.”

Then the angel of YHWH, who was leading the Israelites, moved to their rear — the pillar of cloud left the front of their number and took up position behind them, between the Israelites and the Egyptians. All during the night the cloud provided light to one side and darkness to the other side, so that there was no contact between them.

Then Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and YHWH 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 walled up on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and charioteers went after them into the midst of the sea. At dawn, YHWH looked down upon the Egyptian forces from the column of fiery cloud, and threw the army into confusion and panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they could hardly turn.

The Egyptians turned to flee from the Israelites, saying, “Their God fights for them against us!”

Then YHWH told Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, and let the water flow back upon the Egyptians, over their chariots and their charioteers.” So at sunrise, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the waters rolled back in. As the Egyptians fled, YHWH hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, covering the chariots and the charioteers — Pharaoh’s whole army, who had followed the Israelites into the sea — not one of them survived. But the Israelites passed through, walking dry-shod in the sea, with the water like a wall, on their right and on their left. Thus YHWH saved Israel on that day from the power of Egypt. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that YHWH had shown against them, the people held YHWH in awe; and put their faith in YHWH and in Moses, YHWH’s trusted servant.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to YHWH:

To you, YHWH, I sing:

you have triumphed powerfully.

Horse and charioteer

you have flung into the sea!

You are our strength and our courage;

You have become our deliverance.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 54:5-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

For now your Creator will be your spouse,
whose name is Most High.
Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,
called the God of all the earth.
For YHWH calls you back from your grief —
a young wife abandoned by her husband.
I did abandon you for a brief moment,
but with much tenderness I will take you back.
In an outburst of wrath, I hid my face momentarily;
but with everlasting love I will gather you,
says YHWH, your Redeemer.
I am now as I was in the days of Noah
when I swore that Noah's waters
would never flood the earth again.
So now I swear that I will not be angry with you,
nor will I make threats against you.
For the mountains may disappear and the hills may depart,
but my love will never leave you
And my covenant of peace will never be shaken,
says YHWH, who has mercy on you.
O afflicted one, storm-battered and un-consoled,
I will pave your roads with carnelians,
and lay sapphires as our foundation stones.
I will make your battlements of rubies,
your gates of crystal,
and all your walls of precious stones.
Your children will all be taught by YHWH;
the prosperity of your children will be great.
In justice you will be established,
far from the fear of oppression,
where destruction cannot come near you.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Fifth Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!
You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat;
 come, buy wine and milk, without money, without cost!
Why spend your money for what is not bread,
 your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you will eat well, you will delight in rich fare.
Bend your ear and come to me,
 listen, that you may have life.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you —
 the faithful mercies shown to David.
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander of the nations.
See, you will summon a nation you never knew,
 and a nation which does not know you
 will come hurrying to you — for the sake of YHWH,
 the Holy One of Israel, who will glorify you.
Seek YHWH while YHWH is still to be found,
 call to YHWH, while YHWH is still near.
Let the wicked abandon their ways,
 the evil their thoughts.
Let them turn back to YHWH, who will take pity on them,
 to YHWH, who will generously forgive.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says YHWH.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so high are my ways above your ways
 and my thoughts above your thoughts.
For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down
 and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
 making it fertile and fruitful,
 giving seed to the sower and bread for food,
 so will my word be
 that goes forth from my mouth.
It will not return to me empty,
 but will carry out my will,
 achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Sixth Reading: Baruch 3:9-15, 32-44

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch.

Listen, Israel, to commands that bring life;
hear, and learn what knowledge means.
Why, Israel, why are you in the country of your enemies,
growing older and older in an alien land,
sharing defilement with the dead,
reckoned with those who go to the nether world?
— Because you have forsaken the fountain of Wisdom!
Had you walked in the way of YHWH,
you would have lived in peace forever.
Learn where knowledge is,
where strength, where understanding,
and so learn where length of days is, where life,
where the light of the eyes, and where peace.
But who has found out where Wisdom lives,
who has entered her treasure house?
Yet the One who knows all things knows her;
by the Creator's knowledge she has been embraced —
the One who established the earth for all time,
and filled it with four-footed beasts;
the One who dismisses the light, and it departs,
calls it, and it obeys, trembling;
before whom the stars at their posts shine and rejoice;
when they are called, they answer, "Here we are!"
shining with joy for their Maker.
Such is YHWH, to whom no other is to be compared;
YHWH has grasped the whole way of knowledge,
and confided it to Leah and Rachel and Jacob,
the trusted and faithful ones, to Israel, the well-beloved.
Now Wisdom has appeared on earth,
and moves among the people.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Seventh Reading: Ezekiel 36:16-28

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus the Word of YHWH came to me: “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 which 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 YHWH, 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, I say to the house of Israel: Thus says YHWH — 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 — for you are the ones who have profaned it. Thus, the nations will know that I am the Most High,” says YHWH, “because 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 on you and cleanse you from all your impurities; I will cleanse you from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you; I will remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that when we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death? We have been buried with Jesus through baptism, and we joined with Jesus in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by God's glory, we too might live a new life.

For if we have been united with Christ in the likeness of Christ's death, we will also be united with Christ in the likeness of Christ's resurrection. We must realize that our former selves have been crucified with Christ to make the body of sin and failure completely

powerless, to free us from the slavery to sin: for when people die, they have finished with sin.

But we believe that, having died with Christ, we will also live with Christ — knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again: death is now powerless over our Savior. When Christ died, Christ died to sin, once for all, so that the life Christ lives now is life in God. In this way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin — but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

*This is the day Our God has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.*

ALLELUIA!

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary of Magdala came with Mary to inspect the tomb.

Suddenly, there was a severe earthquake, and an angel of God descended from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The angel's appearance was like lightning, with garments white as snow. The guards shook with fear and fell down as though they were dead.

Then the angel spoke, addressing the women: "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, who is no longer here. Jesus has been raised, exactly as it was foretold. Come and see the burial place. Then go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Jesus there. That is the message I have for you."

*The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!*

In You, Adonai, I take shelter; / never let me be disgraced.
In Your righteousness deliver me,
Into Your hands I commit my spirit, / You have redeemed me, Adonai.

R: Abba-God! I place my life in Your hands.

To every one of my oppressors I am contemptible, / loathsome to my neighbors,
To my friends a thing of fear. / Those who see me in the street hurry past me;
I am forgotten, / as good as dead in their hearts, something discarded.

R: Abba-God! I place my life in Your hands.

But I put my trust in You, Adonai, / I say, "You are my God." My days are in Your hands,
Rescue me from the hands of my enemies and persecutors.

R: Abba-God! I place my life in Your hands.

Let Your face smile on your faithful one, / save me in Your love.
Be strong, let your heart be bold, / all you who hope in Our God!

R: Abba-God! I place my life in your hands.

EASTER VIGIL

Reading 1 — Psalm 104

Response: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Bless Our God, my soul. / Adonai, my God, how great You are!

Clothed in majesty and glory, / wrapped in a robe of light.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

You fixed the earth on its foundations, / unshakable forever and ever;
You wrapped it in the deep as with a robe, / the waters overtopping the mountains.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

You set springs gushing in ravines, / running down between the mountains,
Near there the birds of the air make their nests / and sing among the branches.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

From Your palace You water the uplands
Until the ground has had all that Your heavens have to offer.
You make fresh grass grow for cattle / and those plants made use of by Your people.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Adonai, what variety You have created, / arranging everything so wisely!
Earth is completely full of things You have made: / Bless Our God, my soul.

R: Adonai, send forth Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Reading 2 — Psalm 16

Response: Keep me safe, O God; You are my hope.

You, Adonai, are all I have, /and You give me all I need, my life is in Your hands.
I am always aware of Your presence; / You are near, and nothing can shake me.

R: Keep me safe, O God; You are my hope.

And so I am full of happiness and joy, / and I always feel secure; Because You will not allow me
to go to the world of the dead, You will not abandon / to the depths below the one You love.

R: Keep me safe, O God; You are my hope.

You will show me the path that leads to life; / Your presence fills me with joy,
And Your help brings pleasure forever.

R: Keep me safe, O God; You are my hope.

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EASTER VIGIL — (continued)

Reading 3 — Exodus 15

Response: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

I will sing to Our God, who has triumphed gloriously, horse and rider God has cast into the sea.
My strength and courage is the Most High, /who has been my savior.

It is Our God that I praise; / the God of my ancestors that I extol.

R: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

Our God is a warrior; / who is called the Most High! Pharaoh's chariots and army / have been
hurled into the sea; Pharaoh's elite guard / was submerged into the Sea of Reeds.

R: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

The waters of the flood covered them; / they sank to the depths like a stone.

Your right hand is magnificent in power. Your right hand, O Adonai, has shattered the enemy.

R: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

You brought in the people You redeemed

And planted them on the mountain of Your inheritance.

The place where You made Your seat, the sanctuary which Your hands established.

R: Let us sing to Our God, who is covered in glory.

Reading 4 — Psalm 30

Response: I will praise You, Adonai, for You have rescued me.

I praise You, Adonai, because You have saved me and kept my enemies from gloating over me.

You brought me back / from the world of the dead,

I was with those who go down to the depths below, / but You restored my life.

R: I will praise You, Adonai, for You have rescued me.

Sing praise to Our God, / you faithful people! Remember what the Holy One has done / and give thanks!

Our God's anger lasts only a moment, / God's goodness for a lifetime.

There may be tears during the night, / but joy comes in the morning.

R: I will praise You, Adonai, for You have rescued me.

Hear me, Adonai, and be merciful! / Help me, O God!

You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance; / I will give thanks to You forever.

R: I will praise You, Adonai, for You have rescued me.

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EASTER VIGIL — (continued)

Reading 5 — Isaiah 12

Response: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior, / I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and courage is Our God, / who has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water / from the springs of salvation.

R: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to Our God, / acclaim God's Name.
Make Our God's deeds known among the nations,
Proclaim how exalted is God's name.

R: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Sing praise to Our God for the glorious achievement,
Let this be known throughout the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

R: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Reading 6 — Psalm 19

Response: You have the words of everlasting life.

Your Law, Adonai, is perfect, / it revives the soul.
Your rule is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

Your precepts, Adonai, are right, / they gladden the heart.
Your command is clear, / it gives light to the eyes.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

Fear of You, Adonai, is holy, / abiding forever.
Your decrees are truth /and all of them just.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

They are more desirable than gold, / than the purest of gold.
And sweeter are they than honey, / than honey from the comb.

R: You have the words of everlasting life.

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EASTER VIGIL — (continued)

Reading 7 — Psalm 42 - 43

Response: Like a deer that longs for running streams My soul longs for You, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God, / the God of my life;

When can I enter and see /the face of God?

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

How would I lead the rejoicing crowd / into the house of God?

Amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving, / the throng wild with joy.

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

Send forth Your light and Your fidelity; / they will lead me;

And bring me to Your holy mountain, / to Your dwelling place.

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

Then I will go in to the altar of God, / the God of my gladness and joy;

Then I will give You thanks upon the harp, / O God, my God!

R: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.

EASTER SUNDAY — Psalm 118

Response: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

I give thanks to You, Adonai, for You are good, / Your love is everlasting!

Let the house of Israel say it, / "Your love is everlasting!"

R: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

Our God's right hand is winning, / Our God's right hand is wreaking havoc!

No, I will not die, I will live / to recite the deeds of the Most High.

R: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

It was the stone rejected by the builders / that proved to be the keystone.

This is Our God's doing / and it is wonderful to see.

R: This is the day Our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad.