

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

MARCH 30, 2024
8 P.M.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Houston, Texas

Concerning the Vigil

The Great Vigil is the first service of Easter Day. It is celebrated at a convenient time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Morning. In the time of Christ and his Apostles, following the custom of the Old Covenant, each day was reckoned to end with the setting of the sun, and the new day to begin with nightfall; so this night begins the Lord's Day, the Easter dawn. In the gospels there is no description of the actual raising up of Christ from the dead, but only of the finding of his empty tomb. The mystery of the Resurrection occurs in the silence of the night, the most Holy Night of the Christian year and the beginning of the First Day of the New Creation of God. From the time of the Apostles and the first Christians, this whole night has been kept in Vigil as the Passover of Christ, who on this night passed over from death into the Resurrection life.

Christ is risen; the Lord is risen indeed.

Easter Day, March 31


- 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, with hymns
- 9 a.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite II *
- 10 a.m. Flowering of the Cross, Bishop's Courtyard
- 11 a.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite I *
- 1 p.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite II (in Spanish)
- 5 p.m. The Well, Celtic Eucharist *

* *Childcare provided in the Jones Education Building*

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.

Deacon *People*



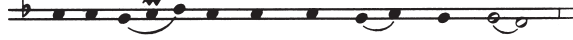
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Deacon



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

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

Holy Father, accept our evening 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 light to all creation, and who lives and reigns

Deacon *People*



... for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The People sit.

The Vigil Readings

The Vigil readings are introduced by the 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

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

HYMN 398

Forest Green

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Silence

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.**

The People sit.

THE SECOND VIGIL READING

Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

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.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Silence

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.**

THE LAST VIGIL READING

Ezekiel 37:1–14

The Valley of Dry Bones

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, prophesy, 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 prophesy, 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.**

PSALM 114

Simplified Anglican chant



Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of / Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange / speech,
Judah became God's / sanctuary *
and Israel his do/minion.

The sea beheld it and / fled; *
Jordan turned and went / back.

The mountains skipped like / rams, *
and the little hills like young / sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you / fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned / back?

You mountains, that you skipped like / rams? *
you little hills like young / sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the / Lord, *
at the presence of the God of / Jacob,
Who turned the hard rock into a pool of / water
and flint-stone into a flowing / spring.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Silence

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.**

Silence

Holy Baptism

Celebrant

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.

The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, as follows

Sponsor

I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant

Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate

I do.

The candidates 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.

The Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the candidates.

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.

All stand. The Celebrant addresses the People, 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

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

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

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

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

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

Celebrant 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

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

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

The candidates come to the font as the prayers are said. A Person appointed leads the following petitions.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant says

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.**

The People sit.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

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.**

Celebrant

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.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

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

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses or pours water upon the candidate, saying

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

Then the Bishop or priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying

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

Following the Baptism, a candle is lit from the Paschal candle and presented to the candidate.

The People stand.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them 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.

HYMN 490

Houston

The First Eucharist of Easter: The Proclamation of the Resurrection

The People remain standing.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Vigil candles are extinguished. The candles at the altar are now lighted from the Paschal candle.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *Missa Resurrectionis* Gerre Hancock (1934–2012)

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.

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

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

The People sit.

THE 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? 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

HYMN 199

St. Kevin

THE EASTER GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-8

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Holy Communion

AT THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

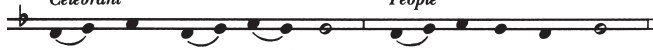





Surrexit Christus hodie, Alleluia!
 Humano pro solamine, Alleluia!
 In hoc Paschali gaudio, Alleluia!
 Benedicamus Domino, Alleluia!
 Mortem qui passus pridie, Alleluia!
 Miserrimo pro homine, Alleluia!
 Laudetur sancta Trinitas, Alleluia!
 Deo dicamus gratias, Alleluia!

*Our Lord is ris'n again today, Alleluia!
 The pow'rs of sin and death to slay, Alleluia!
 His resurrection day proclaim, Alleluia!
 Give thanks to God, and bless his Name.
 He suffered death upon the cross, Alleluia!
 For us he bore all pain and loss, Alleluia
 The Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!
 Let grateful hymns to God be raised, Alleluia!*

—14th cent. Latin hymn

The People stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the altar.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
 <p>The Lord be with you.</p>	 <p>And al - so with you.</p>
<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
 <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	 <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p>
<i>Celebrant</i>	
 <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	
<i>People</i>	
 <p>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</p>	

Then the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Missa Resurrectionis

Gerre Hancock

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n 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.

In celebration of the Easter season, the People remain standing for the Great Thanksgiving. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

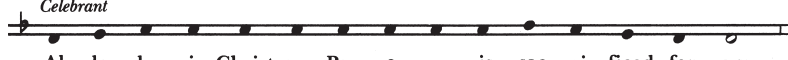
People

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD


The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept. Then is sung

Celebrant



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People



There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Episcopal Church invites all baptized persons to the Lord's Table. Either kneel or stand at the altar rail, receiving the bread in the palm of your hands. Receive the wine by guiding the cup to your mouth or by touching the bread to the wine. If you do not wish to receive Communion, cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free communion wafers are available for persons with dietary restrictions. Notify the priest during the administration and one will be offered.

AT THE ADMINISTRATION

ANTHEM

Sister Elise, CHS (1921–2020)

This is the day,
Not like any other day before or after,
The glory day when Christ is risen,
Bursting forth from shadow into light,
And we redeemed, reborn, renewed, revived,
We, too, rise and shout alleluia!

— Sister Mary Winifred, CHS (b.1949)

ANTHEM

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away; for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear upon the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come.

— *Song of Solomon 2:10-12*

After Communion, all stand. The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN 208

Victory

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Toccata on *Victimae paschali laudes*

Denis Bedard (b.1950)



THE EASTER MUSIC WAS GIVEN TO THE GLORY
OF GOD IN HONOR OF
ROBERT L. SIMPSON, CANON FOR MUSIC.



Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral



If you are a guest today, we offer a warm welcome to Christ Church! Please complete a welcome card found in the pew racks so we can get to know you. Drop the card in the alms basin or hand it to one of the welcome team or staff members after the service. For further information, visit our website at www.christchurchcathedral.org or call the office directly at 713-222-2593.

To learn more about the ministries of Christ Church Cathedral and how you can get involved, read our monthly newsletter The Bulletin, see our upcoming events, and subscribe to our weekly e-newsletters to stay informed. You can find all this information and more at: www.christchurchcathedral.org/get-connected.

If you are new to the Cathedral or feel that you are, you're invited to join us for a Newcomers Welcome Party on Wednesday, April 10 from 6-8 p.m. Get to know the clergy, staff, church leaders, and fellow newcomers at this relaxed gathering. For questions or to RSVP and receive address details, contact Elizabeth Cuevas, Minister for Community Life and Welcome, at ecuevas@christchurchcathedral.org

www.christchurchcathedral.org



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, *Bishop of Texas*
The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher, *Bishop Suffragan*
The Rt. Rev. Kathryn M. Ryan, *Bishop Suffragan*
The Rt. Rev. Hector Monterroso, *Assistant Bishop*
The Very Rev. Nathaniel Katz, *Dean*
The Rev. Canon Simón Bautista Betances
The Rev. Canon Bradley Varnell
The Rev. Canon Liz Kronenberg
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The Rev. Edward L. Stein, *Assisting Priest*
Robert L. Simpson, *Canon for Music*
Thomas Marvil, *Cathedral Organist*
Lucy Chambers, *Bookstore Manager*

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