



# Saint Bartholomew EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*a house of prayer for all people*

## THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

**15 April 2017 at 8:00 p.m.**

### The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

*In the darkness, fire is kindled: after the Celebrant may address the people in these or similar words*

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

*The Celebrant may say the following prayer*

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon (the Celebrant if there is no deacon) bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing saying*

**The light of Christ,**      *People: Thanks be to God*

*The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.*

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

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.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

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

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

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 his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*It is customary that the Paschal Candle burn at all services from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost.*

### The Liturgy of the Word

*The Celebrant may introduce the Scripture readings in these or similar words*

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.

#### Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22:1-18 Psalm 16 p. 599 BCP

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

#### Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10—15:1 Canticle 8, The Song of Moses

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*

#### A new heart and a new spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28 Canticle 9, The First Song of Isaiah P. 85 BCP

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all

#### The valley of dry bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 30 p. 621 BCP

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

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 Renewal of Baptismal Vows

*Celebrant:* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People: I do.*

*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.*

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 Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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

“Alleluia” may be sung and repeated

**Hymn H-179** “Welcome, happy morning!” *Fortunatus*

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

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

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ*

**The Sermon** The Rev. Stephen Secaur

**Altar Preparation**

*The congregation is invited to join in singing*

**Hymn H-180** He is risen, he is risen *Unser Herrscher*

**The Holy Communion**

**Offertory**

*The people stand to sing*

**At the Presentation:** The Doxology (Hymn 380, v- 3) *Old 100th*

*The people remain standing to sing*

**The Great Thanksgiving :** Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

*People And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

*People We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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

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:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord** Sanctus *S125*

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and people*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.*

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Fraction Anthem** Agnus Dei *S164*

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**The Communion of the People**

*All baptized people – whether Episcopalian or not – are welcome to join in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Children of all ages are included in this invitation. If you wish to receive a healing blessing from the Celebrant, when you come to the rail for Communion, fold your hands in prayer.*

*The congregation is invited to join in singing*

**Communion H- 182** Christ is Alive! *Truro*

**The Post Communion Prayer**

Celebrant Let us pray.

*Celebrant and 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.*

**Easter Blessing**

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

*The people stand to sing*

**Hymn H-199** Come, ye faithful *St. Kevin*

**The Dismissal**

*The Celebrant dismisses the people, and the people respond*

*People Thanks be to God.*