



a taste of  
**The Great Vigil of Easter**  
Easter Eve – Saturday, April 15, 2017 – 5<sup>05</sup>PM

**Restless people welcome.**

Children of all ages encouraged to participate.

☪ ← **The swirl invites you** (any of us here) **to read.**

Participate OR rest & listen. Don't worry. Our worship unfolds in God's time.  
If 2 speak at the same time, you can continue together.

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We would like to have a record of your visit. Please complete a Guest Card found on the check-in table and either hand it to Rev. Emily or drop it in the offering plate.

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*We begin in as much darkness as possible — the darkness of Jesus' tomb.*

*Before worship, make sure everyone has an un-lit candle & a bell.*

## **The Service of Light**

BCP 285

The new fire is kindled; then the celebrant addresses the people:

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites [us]... to gather in vigil & prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. By hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

### **Blessing the New Fire**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, through YOUR Son YOU bestow upon YOUR people the brightness of YOUR light: Sanctify this new fire, and [let us] burn with heavenly desires [that purify our hearts &] minds. ... **Amen.**

### **Blessing the Paschal Candle**

The celebrant traces the cross, the Alpha and the Omega on the Paschal Candle:

Celebrant Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End.... **Amen.**

As the celebrant lights the Paschal Candle from the newly kindled fire:

**ALL May the light of Christ gloriously rising dispel the darkness of our hearts & minds.**

Those near the front light their candles from the Paschal candle  
& pass the light to their neighbors.

Three times is chanted:



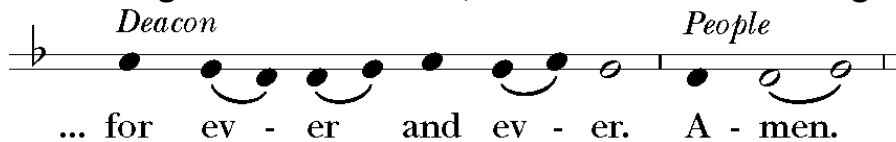
Cantor           The light of Christ.  
People           **Thanks be to God.**

### The Exsultet (a teeny excerpt in chant)

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

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. ...

... May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find [this candle] ever  
burning—who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns with YOU



### The Service of Lessons

BCP 288 & *The Message*

Celebrant   In a grand Easter Vigil, we would hear in full these key stories of salvation  
history interspersed with Psalms & songs, prayers & preaching. Tonight, a line or  
two from each story will remind us how God has *always* saved God's people. As we  
recall these stories of despair and redemption, let us recall our own stories of  
despair and transformation, and let us pray fervently that God will bring each of us  
to the fullness of redemption.

*Each reader should read the title as well as the text of their section. LOUDLY.*

### ☪ THE STORY OF CREATION in the book of Genesis

1:1–2:4a

God looked over everything he had made. It was good!

It was evening, it was morning —Day Six. Heaven and Earth were finished.  
... On the seventh day God rested from all his work.  
God blessed the seventh day & made it Holy.

## ☪ **THE FLOOD in the book of Genesis**

7:1-5, 11-18; 8:8-18; 9:8-13

God said: "...I will send rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the earth."

Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

...The waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.

... Then God said "...From now on, when I form a cloud and the rainbow appears, I'll remember my covenant between me and you and every living thing, that never again will floodwaters destroy all life."

## ☪ **ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC in the book of Genesis**

22:1-18

They arrived at the place to which God had directed him. Abraham built an altar. He laid out the wood. Then he tied up Isaac and laid him on the wood. Abraham reached out and took the knife to kill his son.

Just then an angel of God called to him, "Abraham! Don't lay a hand on that boy! Now I know how fearlessly you fear God...."

Abraham looked up. He saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. He took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

## ☪ **ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA in the book of Exodus**

14:10—15:1

The Israelites looked back and saw the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear they cried out to the Lord.

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it..."

The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall 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.

Then the Lord said, "Stretch out your hand over the sea...." So Moses stretched out his hand, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth.

As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea.

## ☪ **GOD'S PRESENCE IN A RENEWED ISRAEL in the book of the prophet Isaiah**

4:2-6

And that's when God's Branch will sprout green and lush. The produce of the country will give Israel's survivors something to be proud of again. Oh, they'll hold their heads high! Everyone left behind in Zion —all the discards and rejects in Jerusalem— will be reclassified as "holy"—alive and precious.

## ☪ SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL in the book of the prophet Isaiah

55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ...

Incline your ear, and come to me, [your God]; listen, so that you may live.

## ☪ A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT in the book of the prophet Ezekiel

36:24-28

“Here’s what I’m going to do: I’m going to gather you from all over, and bring you back to your own land. ... 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. ... and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”

## ☪ THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES in the book of the prophet Ezekiel

37:1-14

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 full of bones. There were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?”

## ☪ THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE in the book of the prophet Zephaniah

3:12-20

On that day Jerusalem will be told: “Don’t be afraid. Dear Zion, don’t despair. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a strong Warrior there to save you. He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in His love and delight you with His songs.

Celebrant In these salvation stories from our Hebrew scriptures  
& in all the holy transitions and conversions in our own lives,  
let us hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Thanksgiving over the Water <sup>standing</sup> — The celebrant blesses the water.

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....

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.

ALL **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.

ALL **To him, to YOU, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now & for ever.**

**Amen.**

## **Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

Celebrant Recalling the creeds of the Church, let us renew the vows of our Baptism.

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.**

Celebrant May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

*Extinguish candles & prepare to ring bells...*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

***BELLS RING.** During the ringing of the bells, the lights go up.  
The celebrant just might sprinkle the people with the waters of Baptism...*

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray: O God, YOU made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection:

ALL **Stir up in YOUR Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, now renewed in body and mind, may worship YOU in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reader **Excerpts from Paul's letter to the Romans**

6:3-11 MSG

So what do we do: Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! ... When we went under the water [of baptism], we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means.

When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. ...

Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ...!

What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. ...

When Jesus was raised from the dead, [...that was] the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us.

From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word.

You are dead to sin & alive to God. That's what Jesus did.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

# The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:1-12<sup>NRSV</sup>

Celebrant As you hear the Gospel tonight,  
listen for a word or phrase that strikes you particularly.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Reader On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

Ⓢ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them,

ALL **“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.**

Ⓢ “... Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

Reader Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Women **Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them** who told this to the apostles.

Men **But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.**

Reader But Peter got up and ran to the tomb.

Ⓢ Stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves.

ALL **Then he went home, amazed at what had happened.**

*Please name aloud a word or phrase that strikes you.*

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Engaging the Word of God**

## Prayers of the People

Celebrant Let us pray.

*Breathe in. Breathe out. Then begin...*

- Ⓜ Lord, we thank YOU for all the blessings of this life. Ⓜ  
*Please name specific blessings aloud or in your heart.*
- Ⓜ We pray for those who suffer and those in any trouble. Ⓜ  
*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*
- Ⓜ We pray for the welfare of the world & YOUR people in every country. Ⓜ  
*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*
- Ⓜ We pray for the concerns of our local communities. Ⓜ  
*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*
- Ⓜ We pray for our nation and all in authority. Ⓜ  
*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*
- Ⓜ We pray for the Church Universal, its members, and its mission. Ⓜ  
*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*
- Ⓜ We pray for all who have died, remembering their gifts to us and seeking reconciliation for our differences, and for all who mourn. Ⓜ  
*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*

ALL

**Sustain us and all your people, O Lord, in YOUR Holy Spirit.  
Give us inquiring and discerning hearts, 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.**

**The Peace** Standing — then circulate & greet.

*Wee Book p.101 adapted\**



Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*We greet each other in the Lord's name.*

## Offering

*As we greet each other, we place our offerings in the basket.*



## THE HOLY COMMUNION Children (& their people) may come forward to see.

### Presenting our Offering

ALL **Our life: soul & body —all that we are— we offer to YOU, O Lord.**

*The basket is lifted in offering to God, and placed on the altar.*

### The Great Thanksgiving

EOW-A & *Wee Book* p.86ff. adapted

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, for YOU made us, and before us, YOU made the world we inhabit, and before the world, YOU made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place.

ALL **All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in YOU;  
all that is lovely, all who are loving point to YOU as their fulfillment.**

And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond,  
we praise YOU for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For His life informs our living; His compassion changes our hearts;  
His clear speaking contradicts our generalities.  
For His disturbing presence, His innocent suffering, His fearless dying,  
His rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise YOU and worship Him.

On the night before He died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,  
and when He had given thanks to YOU, He broke it, and gave it to His friends, and  
said: "Take, eat: This is MY Body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of ME."

*bells ring...*

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you —and for all— for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of ME."

*bells ring*

*silence*

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, YOUR Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of Him whose food we now share.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
ALL **Blessing & honor & glory & power be to our God for ever and ever. AMEN.**

*bells ring*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Traditional

**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.**

from the Lord's Prayer version offered in *The New Zealand Prayer Book*

- ☉ With the bread we need for today, feed us.
- ☉ In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
- ☉ In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
- ☉ From trials too great to endure, spare us.
- ☉ From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

ALL **For YOU reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant Alleluia! We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread. Alleluia!**

## About Communion

- **GLUTEN-FREE** Communion is available in the crystal box & small chalice. Just point.
- **CHRISTIANS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**  
*If you are not baptized or are not comfortable, the priest is happy simply to pray a blessing on you if you come forward.*
- **YOU MAY WISH TO DIP IN TO THE HOLY WATER IN THE FONT TO REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM:**  
*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ~Ps.51:10*

## Prayer after Communion standing

*EOW\**

Celebrant Let us pray.

**ALL God of abundance, YOU have fed us with the bread of life & cup of salvation; YOU have united us with Christ and one another; and YOU have made us one with all YOUR people in heaven & on earth. Now send us forth in the power of YOUR Spirit, that we may proclaim YOUR redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Blessing** The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands & heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

## Centering Bell



*As the sound of the bell diminishes, you may raise your arms, breathing in and gathering the challenge and blessings of this Holy Communion into your hands and into your heart.*

## The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of the risen Christ! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*bells ring*

# St. Martin's Episcopal Church

A Beacon of Christ's Love, Spirit Fed, Serving Others



The Rt. Reverend George Wayne Smith, Bishop of Missouri

The Reverend Jon W. Hall, *Rector*, [jhall@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:jhall@stmartinschurch.org)

The Reverend Chris Slane, [cslane@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:cslane@stmartinschurch.org)

The Reverend Jay Kanzler, *Associate Priest*

The Rev. Dr. Emily Hillquist Davis, [edavis@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:edavis@stmartinschurch.org)

**CLERGY & LAY MINISTERS OF ST. MARTIN'S ARE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS PERSONAL & SPIRITUAL MATTERS AND TO VISIT FOLKS IN HOSPITAL OR HOMEBOUND; E-MAIL US OR PHONE THE CHURCH.**

## ST. MARTIN'S USUAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Saturdays

Mellow Worship + Holy Communion. Come as you are. 5<sup>05</sup>PM

### Sundays

Traditional Holy Communion with "Thee"s & "Thou"s, no music 8am

Christian Education 9am

Holy Communion with organ, choir, congregational singing  
and Children's Worship 10:15am

Sunday Nursery hours: 9 – 11:45am

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