



19 April 2025

EASTER VIGIL

Year C

A Story of Love, Hope, Mercy, and Power

In these past two days we have been one with the Lord in his suffering. Now we want to be one with him in his resurrection. The dark night of his death and burial is still on us, but the bright dawn of his resurrection is about to envelop us in all its splendor with its unprecedented victory over death and sin.

As we gather around the Paschal Candle, the symbol of the Risen Christ who scatters the darkness of sin, let us rekindle the light of our faith. Let us re-live the wonders of God's power and love as shown in the splendor of creation and the history of salvation, and especially in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

PART ONE THE SERVICE OF LIGHT



All the lights in the church are put out. A fire is prepared in a suitable place outside the church. When the people have assembled, the priest or deacon goes there with the ministers, one of whom carries the Easter candle.

P –Dear brothers and sisters, on this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

The Blessing of the Fire

Commentator –The darkness that surrounds us symbolizes the darkness of Jesus' sepulcher. The fire that we have lit



symbolizes the brightness of God's love which raised up His Son Jesus and made him the light of our lives.

P –Let us pray.

O God, who through your Son bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory, sanctify (✠) this new fire, we pray, and grant that, by these paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires, that with minds made pure we may attain festivities of unending splendor.

Through Christ our Lord.
All–Amen!

Preparation of the Candle

Commentator – The Easter

candle symbolizes the Risen Christ. Just as this candle is a source of light for all of us, so is Jesus the light that brightens our way to the Father in the darkness of this life.

While the priest/deacon traces the cross, then the letters Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω) and the digits of the year 2025, he says:

P –Christ yesterday and today,
–the Beginning and the End,
–the Alpha
–and the Omega.
–All time belongs to him
–and all the ages.
–To him be glory and power
–through every age and for ever. Amen!

The celebrant then inserts in the cross five grains of incense following the shape of the cross saying:

P –By his holy
–and glorious wounds,
–may Christ the Lord
–guard us
–and protect us. Amen!

The priest/deacon lights the candle from the new fire, saying:

P –May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Procession

The priest/deacon lifts the Easter Candle and sings:

**P –THE LIGHT OF CHRIST!
All–Thanks be to God!**

All enter the church led by the priest/deacon who holds the Paschal Candle. As he reaches the center of the church, the priest/deacon sings again:

**P –THE LIGHT OF CHRIST!
All–Thanks be to God!**

All light their candles from the Easter Candle and continue in the procession. When the priest/deacon arrives before the altar, he faces the people and repeats the acclamation:

**P –THE LIGHT OF CHRIST!
All–Thanks be to God!**

Easter Proclamation (Short Form)

The lights of the church are switched on. The priest/deacon places the Easter Candle on a stand near the lectern, incenses it and proclaims the “Exsultet.”

P/D–Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult! Let Angel ministers of God exult! Let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King’s triumph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King. Let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness! Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory! Let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples!

P –The Lord be with you!
All–And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!
All–We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
All–It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam’s debt to the eternal Father, and, pouring out his own dear Blood, wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These then are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel’s children, from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night that, with a pillar of fire, banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night that, which even now throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld.

O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling! To ransom a slave, you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth and divine to the human.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and

of your servants’ hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death’s domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All–Amen!

The candles are put out. They will be lit again for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.



[N.B. Due to space constraints, only five out of seven readings from the Old Testament can be accommodated in this issue of the Euchalette.]

P –Dear brothers and sisters, now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption.

1st Reading Gn 1:1.26-31
Salvation history begins with creation, which reached its climax in the creation of the first human beings.

*(This passage can be proclaimed by turns: **N** – Narrator; **G** – God)*

N.B. *The words within parentheses should be omitted when the Biblical text is proclaimed by turns.*

R –A reading from the Book of Genesis

N –In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, God said:

G –Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.

N –God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying:

G –Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all the living things that move on the earth.

N –(God also said:)

G –See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.

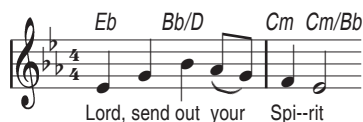
N –And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

The Word of the Lord!
All–Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 104

R –Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!

R. M. Velez



* Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak. **R.**

* You fixed the earth upon its foundation, not to be moved forever; with the ocean, as with a garment, you covered it; above the mountains the waters stood. **R.**

* You send forth springs into the watercourses that wind among the mountains. Beside them the birds of heaven dwell; from among the branches they send forth their song. **R.**

* You water the mountains from your palace; the earth is replete with the fruit of your works. You raise grass for the cattle, and vegetation for man's use, producing bread from the earth. **R.**

* How manifold are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all – the earth is full of your creatures. Bless the Lord, O my soul! **R.**

Prayer after the 1st Reading

P –O God, who wonderfully created human nature and still more wonderfully redeemed it, grant us, we pray, to set our minds against the enticements of sin, that we may merit to attain eternal joys.

Through Christ our Lord.
All–Amen!

2nd Reading

Gn 22:1-2.9.10-13.15-18

The sacrifice of Isaac foreshadows the sacrifice of Christ, but with a difference: while God saved Isaac through His timely intervention, He did not intervene to save Christ because the salvation of humankind depended on his sacrificial death. God would intervene after Jesus' death by raising him to a glorious and immortal life.

(**N** – Narrator; **G** – God; **A** – Abraham)

R –A reading from the Book of Genesis

N –God put Abraham to the test. He called to him:

G –Abraham!

A –Here I am!

N –(he replied. Then God said:)

G –Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you.

N –When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he

reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the Lord's messenger called to him from heaven:

G –Abraham, Abraham!

A –Here I am!

N –(he answered.)

G –Do not lay your hand on the boy.

N –(said the messenger.)

G –Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.

N –As Abraham looked about, he saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Again the Lord's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said:

G –I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing – all this because you obeyed my command.

The Word of the Lord!
All–Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 16

R –You are my inheritance, O Lord!

R. M. Velez



* O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot. I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. **R.**

* Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption. **R.**

* You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever. **R.**

Prayer after the 2nd Reading

P –O God, supreme Father of the faithful, who increase the children of your promise by pouring out the grace of adoption throughout the whole world and who through the Paschal Mystery make your servant Abraham father of nations, as once you swore, grant, we pray, that your peoples may enter worthily into the grace to which you call them.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen!

3rd Reading Ex 14:15-15:1

The dramatic crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites foreshadows the passing of all believers from the slavery of Satan to the freedom of God's children through the sacrament of Baptism.

(**N¹** – Male Narrator;
N² – Female Narrator; **G** – God)

R –A reading from the Book of Exodus

N¹ –The Lord said to Moses:

G –Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.

N¹ –The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long.

N² –Then Moses stretched out

his hand over the sea, and the Lord 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 like a wall to their right and to their left.

N¹ –The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them, right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn, the Lord cast, through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force, a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive.

N² –With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the Lord was fighting for them against the Egyptians. Then the Lord told Moses:

G –Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers.

N¹ –So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the Lord hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped.

N² –But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians.

N¹ –When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the Lord had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the Lord and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

N² –Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: I will sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ex 15

R –*Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory!*

R. M. Velez



* I will sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior. He is my God, I praise him; the God of my father, I extol him. **R.**

* The Lord is a warrior, Lord is his name! Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea; the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea. **R.**

* The flood waters covered them, they sank into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O Lord, magnificent in power, your right hand, O Lord, has shattered the enemy. **R.**

* You brought in the people you redeemed and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance – the place where you made your seat, O Lord, the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands established. The Lord shall reign forever and ever. **R.**

Prayer after the 3rd Reading

P –O God, whose ancient wonders remain undimmed in splendor even in our day, for what you once bestowed on a single people, freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution by the power of your right hand, now you bring about as the salvation of the nations through the waters of rebirth, grant, we pray, that the whole world may become children of Abraham and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen!

4th Reading: Omitted

5th Reading Is 55:1-11
God's generosity toward hu-

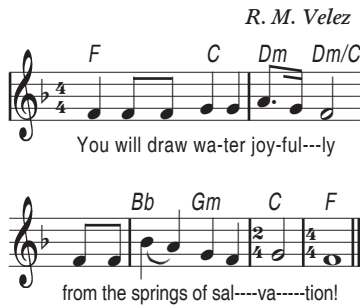
mankind has no bounds. The list of special favors contained in this passage from Isaiah is a symbolic token of the even greater blessings He has bestowed on all peoples through the passion and resurrection of His Anointed One, Jesus Christ.

R –A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. 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 till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth. My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord!
All–Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Is 12
R –You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation!



* God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation. **R.**

* Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name. **R.**

* Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel! **R.**

Prayer after the 5th Reading

P –Almighty ever-living God, sole hope of the world, who by the preaching of your Prophets unveiled the mysteries of this present age, graciously increase the longing of your people, for only at the prompting of your grace do the faithful progress in any kind of virtue.

Through Christ our Lord.
All–Amen!

6th Reading: Omitted

7th Reading Ez 36:16-17.18-28

God never abandoned His people Israel totally, even when they transgressed gravely. At one point, through the prophet Ezekiel, He even promised them a new heart and new spirit in order that they might serve Him faithfully. This promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

R –A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord came to me, saying: Son of man, 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 that 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 whenever they came, they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: “These are the people of the Lord, 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 say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord God: 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, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when 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 upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The Word of the Lord!
All–Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 51
(*Use this if there is no Baptism.)

R –Create a clean heart in me, O God!





* A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me. **R.**

* Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you. **R.**

* For you are not pleased with sacrifices; should I offer a Holocaust, you would not accept it. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite Spirit; a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn. **R.**

Prayer after the 7th Reading

P –O God of unchanging power and eternal light, look with favor on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation, which you planned from all eternity; may the whole world know and see that what was cast down is raised up, what had become old is made new, and all things are restored to integrity through Christ, just as by him they came into being. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All–Amen!

The altar candles are lighted, the priest intones the Gloria, and the church bells are rung.

Gloria

All –Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are

the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord’s Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render you undivided service.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All–Amen!

Epistle

Rom 6:3-11

The sacrament of Baptism inserts us in the saving mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection. Dead with him to sin, we also rise to a new life with him.

R –A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

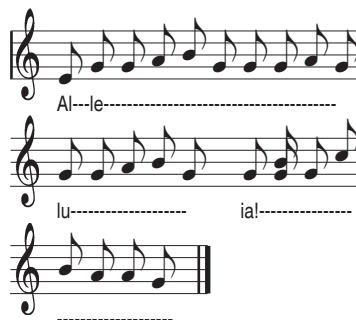
The Word of the Lord!

All–Thanks be to God!

Alleluia

The priest solemnly intones the Alleluia and the people respond. This is repeated three times, ascending in tone.

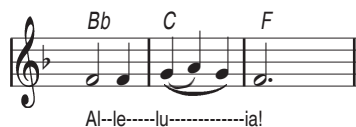
Gregorian Chant



Responsorial Psalm Ps 118

R –Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

R. M. Velez



* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.” **R.**

* The right hand of the Lord has struck with power; the right hand of the Lord is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. **R.**

* The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. **R.**

Gospel

Lk 24:1-12

The empty tomb and the angel’s message proclaim that Jesus Christ has been raised from death. This is the reason for the Easter joy for the disciples of Jesus and for all of us.

P – A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At daybreak on the first day of the week the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They

found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day." And they remembered his words. Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these things to the eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles, but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

PART THREE BAPTISMAL LITURGY



If there are candidates to be baptized, the priest addresses the congregation as follows:

P –Dearly beloved, with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers come to the aid of these – our brothers and sisters – in their blessed hope, so that, as they approach the font of rebirth, the almighty Father may bestow on them all his merciful help.

Blessing of Baptismal Water

P –O God, who, by invisible power, accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's

creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen People, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized;

O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive, by the Holy Spirit, the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.

The priest lowers the Easter candle into the water as he continues:

P –May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font,

He holds the candle in the water:

P –so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

All—Springs of water, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all for ever!

Baptism

The candidates are baptized in the usual way.

If no one is to be baptized, the priest blesses the water with the following prayer:

P –Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, which will be sprinkled upon us as a memorial of our Baptism. May he graciously renew us, that we may remain faithful to the Spirit whom we have received. *(Pause)*

Lord our God, in your mercy, be present to your people who keep vigil on this most sacred night, and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption, graciously bless this water. (✠)

For you created water to make the fields fruitful and to refresh and cleanse our bodies. You also made water the instrument of your mercy: for through water you freed your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the desert; through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through water, which Christ made holy in the Jordan, you have renewed our corrupted nature in the bath of regeneration. Therefore, may this water be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have received, and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and sisters, who at Easter have received their Baptism. Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

*(Instead of the Profession of Faith)
 All present stand with lighted candles.*

P –Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery

we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

P –Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

All–I do!

P –Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

All–I do!

P –Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

All–I do!

P –Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All–I do!

P –Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All–I do!

P –Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All–I do!

P –And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

All–Amen!

The priest sprinkles the people with the holy water, while a suitable hymn may be sung.

Prayer of the Faithful

P –Strengthened by the Lord’s presence in our midst and encouraged by His immense love for all of us, let us

confidently present our petitions to Him for the needs of all mankind:

All–Lord, graciously hear us!

C –That the whole Church may experience a real resurrection and liberation from all its past defeats, defects and defections, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the Holy Father and all our spiritual leaders may feel strengthened by Jesus’ resurrection and consoled in the difficulties they meet, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all the newly baptized may remain faithful to their commitment to reject the devil and live according to the Gospel of life, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all the peoples who have been ravaged by war and natural calamities may finally experience the peace and joy of the Resurrection, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all the dying may find in the resurrection of Jesus their source of hope and serenity as they are about to leave this life, let us pray! **R.**

C –For all peoples all over the world: that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times, let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord God, may the splendor of Your Son’s resurrection brighten up all our days, sustain us in our trials and lead us to the eternal Easter of heaven where You live and reign for ever and ever.

All–Amen!



P –Pray, brethren . . .

All –May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –Accept, we ask, O Lord, the prayers of your people with the sacrificial offerings, that what has begun in the paschal mysteries may, by the working of your power, bring us to the healing of eternity. Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

Easter Preface I

P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All–We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All –It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this night, above all, to praise you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All–Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All–We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!



All–Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All–For the kingdom . . .

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread
All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia!

(1 Cor 5:7-8)

Prayer after Communion

P –Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this paschal Sacrament one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P –Go in peace.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All—Thanks be to God!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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BISPERAS SA VERITAS (846 kHz)
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**SEVEN PLUS ONE: WRAPPING MY HEAD AROUND
A GLORIOUS MYSTERY**

Kalakbay at Katoto

Easter is a season. It's seven weeks plus one day! We usher in this season with a bang . . . with joyful exaltation, with the glorious proclamation of the Exultet and followed up by lusty acclamations of PRAISE . . . Alleluia! Praise be to the Lord . . . not once, not twice, but repeatedly.

God deserves it. He is glorious. Even if, in and through His Son Jesus Christ, God suffered, God bit dust, God died. But in and through the Risen Christ, God reigns glorious, yesterday, today, and forever.

Seven, as we all know, is a number that speaks about the mighty and glorious God. It is Biblical. It is theological. And it speaks about the infinite fruits of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ the Son of God.

The forty days of Lent sure was long. Whatever is great, whatever is noble, whatever is glorious and whatever refers to Almighty God takes long for us to even start understanding. A mystery of a love so great, a work of salvation so encompassing takes time to sink in. And after 40 days, we still could not wrap our heads around it. We are stunned. We are taken aback.

The past seven days took us in some kind of a roller-coaster spiritual, mystical and theological ride! We cried out "Hosanna!" We joined the crowds, too, in hollering "Crucify him" every time we sinned. We were stone-silent as He suffered and died on the Cross. We were tight-lipped in mourning the day after Christ died.

But tonight, we are once more roused into believing, into hoping and into rejoicing. The Lord is Risen! As He had promised! And we start tonight this glorious journey of seven weeks and a day – a full season to reflect on three glorious mysteries: 1) the Resurrection of the Lord, 2) the Ascension of the Lord into heaven, and 3) the Descent of the Holy Spirit to the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Can you wrap your heads around this glorious mystery times three? I cannot. I dare not even claim I do. But all I know is what I am sure of: CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!

I am nothing if I do not accept the reality that I, too, am on a journey. I am a pilgrim of Hope. And the Lord's resurrection made that possible for me and you!



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