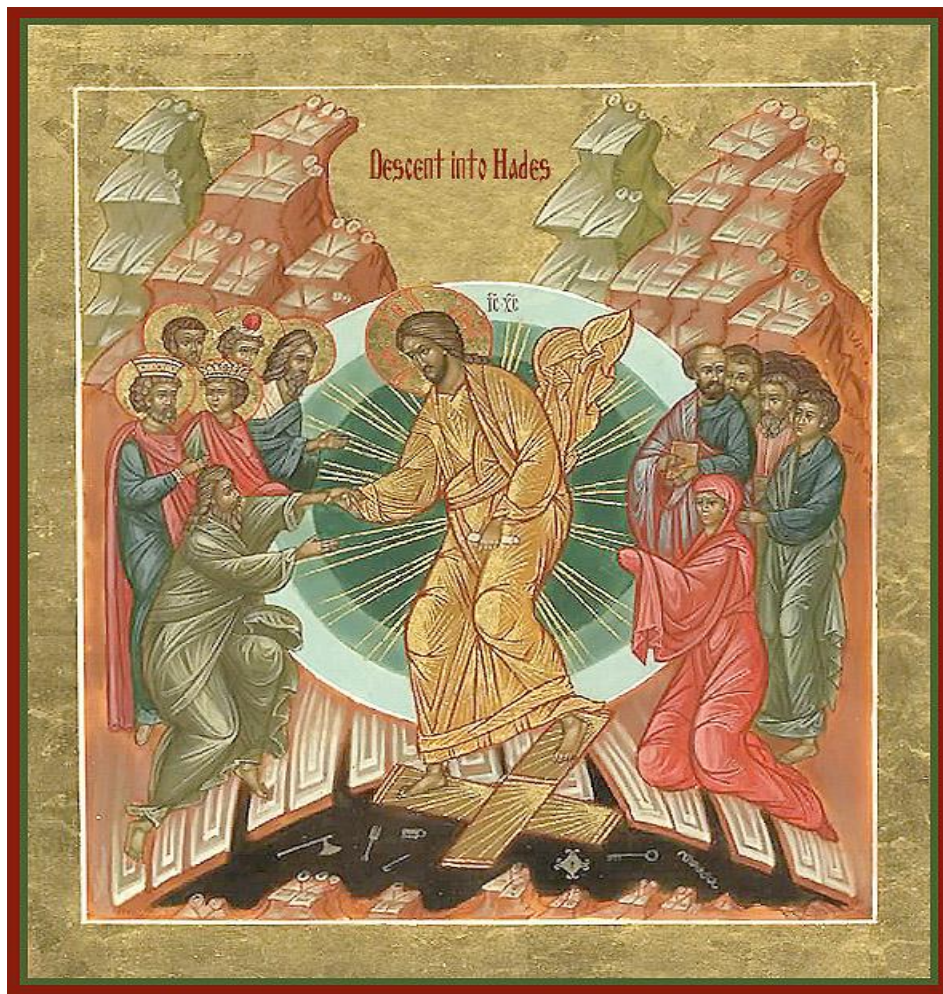


THE GREAT VIGIL
OF
THE RESURRECTION OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



**The Fraternity of Saint Gregory the Great
The Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**

The Great Vigil, when observed, 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 ancient times the service began at sundown and went through the night. In the midst of the night the Christian Community took a break for sustenance. As early as 125 AD fragments of blessings are found for different foods. The Christian Community would then resume and celebrate the Eucharist so that upon its conclusion all would see the dawning of a new day in the rising Son. In time, The Western Church shortened the service and created the First Mass of Easter for the Vigil and The Principle Mass of Easter for the day.

The Great Vigil service consists of four parts:

- 1. The Service of Light.*
- 2. The Service of Lessons.*
- 3. Christian Initiation, or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows.*
- 4. The Holy Eucharist.*

It is customary for all the clergy present, together with lay readers, singers, and other persons, to take active parts in the service.

The bishop, when present, is the main celebrant, presides at Baptism and Chrismation and normally preaches the sermon.

The priests who are present share among them the reading of the Collects which follow each Lesson, and assist at Baptism and the Eucharist. In the absence of a bishop, a priest presides at the service.

It is the prerogative of a deacon to carry the Paschal Candle to its place, and to chant the Exsultet and read the Gospel. Deacons likewise assist at Baptism and the Eucharist according to their order.

Lay persons read the Lessons and the Epistle, and assist in other ways. It is desirable that each Lesson be read by a different reader.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

All is in darkness as fire is kindled outside the church. The Sacred Ministers wear purple vestments except for the Deacon who wears white. Charcoal for the thurible is placed upon the grill to ignite it; after which the Priest addresses the people in these words:

Priest: Dear friends in Christ:

On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church dispersed throughout the world, gathers in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Mysteries, we share in his victory over death.

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, through your Son, the cornerstone, you have bestowed upon your faithful people the fire of your glory and the illumination of your Light:

Sanctify this new fire, ✠ kindled from flint and grant that through these Paschal Mysteries 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 fire is sprinkled with Holy Water, charcoal is placed into the thurible, and incense is blessed and put into the censer and the fire is censed three times.

The priest traces the candle with a stylus or his thumb as he says

Christ yesterday and today
The beginning and the end
Alpha and Omega
All time belongs to him
And all the ages
To him be glory and power
Through every age for ever. *Amen*

If incensed nails are put into the candle the following is used:

1	(1) By his holy		
	(2) and glorious wounds		
4	2	5	(3) may Christ our Lord
			(4) guard us
3	(5) and preserve us. <i>Amen</i>		

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

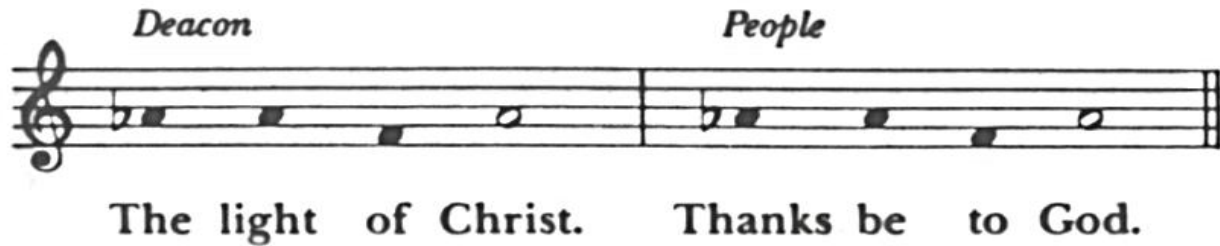
Priest Let us pray:

Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing + upon this lighted candle. O invisible renewer of life, look with favor upon this lamp of night so that the sacrifice offered this evening may marvelously reflect your own light, and let the power of your majesty drive out the deceits of Satan and remain wherever this blessed holy fire may be taken; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the fire as the Priest says

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

The Deacon (the Priest if there is no deacon) bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the Altar, pausing three times and singing



The people light their candles from the Paschal Candle. Other candles and lamps in the church, except for those at the Altar, are also lighted.

"Come, receive light from the un-waning Light,
and glorify Christ who is risen from the dead."

When the procession reaches the Sanctuary the Paschal Candle is placed in its stand and is incensed by the Priest.

Then the Deacon, wearing a white dalmatic asks a blessing of the Priest, and, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet:

Deacon: Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
Rejoice all creation around God's throne
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,
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for all ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

Deacon Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Deacon 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.

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 all humanity is reconciled to God.

O 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 all ages of ages.

People: Amen

Traditionally the Paschal Candle burns at all services from Easter Day until after the gospel of the Ascension.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Priest: Dear Friends

Let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling 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.

At least three of the following Lessons are read, of which one is always the Lesson from Exodus. After each Lesson, the Psalm or Canticle listed may be sung. A period of silence may be kept; and the Collect provided, is sung.

I*

THE STORY OF CREATION: GENESIS 1:1-2:2

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 Man in our image, according to our likeness; and let him 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 Man in his image, in the image of God he created him; 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.

Lector: The Word of The Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

✠ SILENT REFLECTION ✠



Cantor Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, *

All: and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, ↓
your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O LORD.

7 How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings

8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.

10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

Priest: 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, that by discipline of spirit, we may stand firm against the allurements of sin and be found worthy to attain everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son, our lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages.

People: Amen.

II

THE FLOOD: GENESIS 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind --every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above

the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.

Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him anymore.

In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.

Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh: birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth: so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and

his sons' wives. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Lector: The Word of The Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

✠ SILENT REFLECTION ✠

THE PSALM: 46 *Deus noster refugium*

TONE V



Cantor: God is our refuge and strength, *

All: a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled
into the depths of the sea;

- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God*
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, ↓
and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."

12 The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Priest: Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

III

ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC: GENESIS 22:1-18

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship,

and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."

So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand

that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

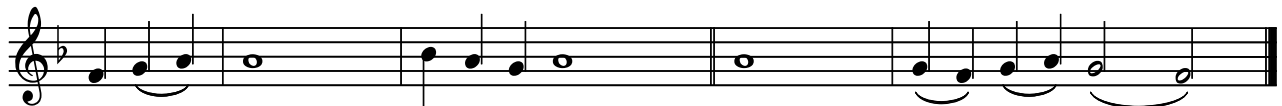
Lector: The Word of The Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

✠ SILENT REFLECTION ✠

THE PSALM: 16 *Conserva me, Domine*

TONE I



Cantor: Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *

All: I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles mul-ti-plied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.

- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly her-i-tage.
- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the LORD always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for ev-er-more.

Priest: 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.

People: Amen

IV*

THE DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA: EXODUS 14:10-15:1

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 them into the sea, with 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 Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD.....:

THE SONG OF MOSES *Cantemus Domino*

TONE VII



Cantor: I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and up-lift-ed; *

All: the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my re-fuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty war-ri-or; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army,
has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor,
have been drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has over-whelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone..



Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?

You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up..

With your constant love you led the people you redeemed, *
with your might you brought them in safety,
to your holy dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant them *
on the mount of your possession,

The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.

The Lord shall reign *
for ever and for ever.

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, ↓
and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever,
for all ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: 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.

People: Amen.

V*

GOD'S PRESENCE IN A RENEWED ISRAEL: ISAIAH 4:2-6

On that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, once the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed over all the glory there will be a canopy. It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

Lector: The Word of The Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

✦ SILENT REFLECTION ✦

THE PSALM: 122 *Laetatus sum*

TONE VIII



Cantor: I was glad when they said to me, *

All: "Let us go to the house of the LORD.."

2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;..

4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.

9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Priest: Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, you led your ancient people by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Grant that we, who serve you now on earth, may come to the joy of that heavenly Jerusalem, where all tears are wiped away and where your saints for ever sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

VI

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL: 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.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Lector: The Word of The Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

✠ SILENT REFLECTION ✠

THE CANTICLE: THE FIRST SON OF ISAIAH *Ecce, Deus*



Cantor: Surely, it is God who saves me; *

All: I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, ↓
and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever,
for all ages of ages Amen.

Priest: Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

VII

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT: EZEKIEL 36:24-28

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 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. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Lector: The Word of The Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

✦ SILENT REFLECTION ✦

THE PSALM 42:1-7 *Quemadmodum*

TONE VII



Cantor: As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
All: so longs my soul for you, O God..

2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God *
when shall I come to appear
before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me,
"Where now is your God?"..

4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude,
and led them into the house of God,..

5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.

6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?



7 Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Priest: Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

VIII

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

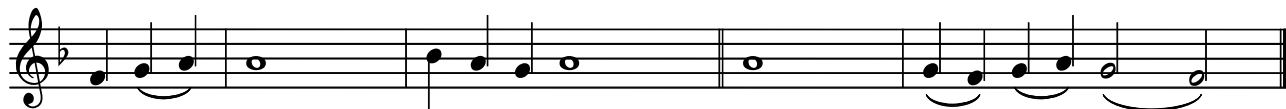
The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O 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, prophecy, 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 prophecy, 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.

Lector: The Word of The Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

✠ SILENT REFLECTION ✠



Cantor: I will exalt you, O LORD,
because you have lifted me up *

All: and have not let my enemies triumph o-ver me.

2 O LORD my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.

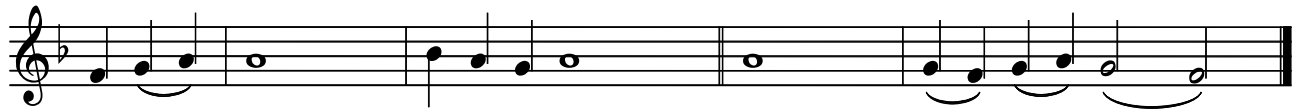
3 You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; *
you restored my life
as I was going down to the grave..

4 Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; *
give thanks for the remembrance of his ho-li-ness.

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
his favor for a life-time.

6 Weeping may spend the night, *
but joy comes in the morning.

7 While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed *
You, LORD, with your favor,
made me as strong as the mountains."



8 Then you hid your face, *
and I was filled with fear.

9 I cried to you, O LORD; *
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

10 "What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down to the Pit? *
will the dust praise you
or declare your faith-ful-ness?

11 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me; *
O LORD, be my help-er."

12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sack-cloth
and clothed me with joy..

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Priest: 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.

People: Amen.

IX

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE: ZEPHANIAH 3:12-20

For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD -- the remnant of Israel; they shall do no wrong and utter no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths. Then they will pasture and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Lector: The Word of The Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

✧ SILENT REFLECTION ✧

THE PSALM: 98 Cantate Domino

STONE VII



Cantor: 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *

All: for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory..

3 The LORD has made known his vic-tory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown
in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness
to the house of Is-rael, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God..

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing..

6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.



7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD..

8 Let the sea make a noise, and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Priest: Let us pray. (Silence)

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:
Look favorably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery;
by the effectual working of your providence,
carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation;
let the whole world see and know
that things which were cast down are being raised up,
and things which had grown old are being made new,
and that all things are being brought to their perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

In the absence of candidates for Baptism and/or Chrismation, the Priest leads the people in the Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The Priest addresses the people in these words, all standing

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.

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

People I do.

The Nicene Creed

Priest Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

Priest Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God. begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made; For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became Man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, in glory, to judge the living and the dead. And His kingdom will have no end.

Priest Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We await the resurrection of the dead ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Priest 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.

Priest 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.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

Priest Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the life and dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

The Priest now sprinkles the people with holy water to remind them of their baptism. He then concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

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.

People Amen.

Go to page 52

HOLY BAPTISM AND CHRISMATION

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

Priest The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism and Chrismation will now be presented.

Adults and Older Children

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.

The Priest asks each candidate when presented

Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Infants and Younger Children

Then the candidates unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

*Parents
and
Godparents* I present **N.** to receive the Sacrament of Baptism and Chrismation.

When all have been presented the Priest asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is taught and brought up in the Orthodox Christian faith and life?

Sponsors: I will, with God's help.

Priest Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Sponsors: I will, with God's help.

Then the Priest asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

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 in His Body, The Church?

Answer I do.

*After all have been presented, the Priest addresses the congregation,
saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your
power to support these persons in their life in
Christ?

People We will!

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

The Baptismal Covenant

Priest Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Priest 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.

Priest 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.

Priest 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.

Priest 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.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

Priest 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

Priest Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive
the Sacrament of new birth.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions which may be sung:

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

People Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.

Leader Open *their* hearts to your grace and truth.

People Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.

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

People Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.

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

People Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.

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

People Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.

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

People Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.

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

People Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.

Priest 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.

People Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Priest blesses the water, first saying

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Priest 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.

The priest breathes over the water in the sign of the cross three times.

At the following words, the Priest 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.

People Amen.

The Baptism

Each candidate is presented by name to the Priest, or at his direction to the deacon, who then immerses the candidate three times, saying

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

People Amen!

The Priest now takes some of the baptismal water and sprinkles the congregation as the choir sings the Vidi Aquam.

During the singing, the newly baptized may be dressed in their new alb. Adults baptized by immersion will retire to the sacristy, dress quickly, and return in a white alb for the anointing.

I saw wa - ter, com - ing forth from the right side of the tem - ple,
 al - le - lu - ia.; and all who came to that wa - ter were saved,
 and they shall say: al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu -
 - ia. O give thanks to the Lord for he is good:
 for his mer - cy en - dures for - ev - er. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son,
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in the be - gin - ning,
 is now and ev - er, for all a - ges of a - ges. A - men I saw wa - ter,
 com - ing forth from the right side of the tem - ple, al - le - lu - ia.;
 and all who came to that wa - ter were saved, and they shall say:
 al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia.

When this action has been completed for all candidates, and they are vested, the Priest, in full sight of the congregation, prays over them:

Priest: 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. Illumined by you, give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know you, to love you, to serve you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

Holy Chrismation

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross with Chrism and saying to each one

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

People Amen!

When all have been baptized and chrismated, the Priest says

Priest: Let us welcome the newly illumined.

Priest and People:

O Lord save Your people and bless Your inheritance.
Grant victory to Orthodox Christians
over their Enemy.
And by virtue of Your cross, preserve your habitation.

The Peace is now exchanged

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with your spirit.

The Peace is now quietly shared among the all the people gathered.

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF THE RESURRECTION

The candles at the Altar are now lighted from the Paschal Candle.

*The following from the Eastern Rite may be used or the Priest may go directly to the proclamation * on page 54. If the following is used the customary procession around the church three times may be used.*

Soprano

Tenor

Your res - sur - rec - tion O Christ our Sav - ior

This musical system features two staves. The top staff is for Soprano and the bottom for Tenor. Both are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes, with a sharp sign above the final note of the phrase. The accompaniment is a simple harmonic accompaniment of chords.

2

The an - gels in hea - ven sing! En - a - ble us on earth

This musical system features two staves. The top staff is for Soprano and the bottom for Tenor. Both are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes, with a sharp sign above the final note of the phrase. The accompaniment is a simple harmonic accompaniment of chords.

4

To glo-ri-fly you with pur-i-ty of heart!

This musical system features two staves. The top staff is for Soprano and the bottom for Tenor. Both are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes, with a sharp sign above the final note of the phrase. The accompaniment is a simple harmonic accompaniment of chords.

At the Church door the Priest sings this once and the people repeat it.

Musical score for Soprano and Tenor. The Soprano part is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The Tenor part is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: Christ is ri - sen from the dead,

Musical score for Soprano and Tenor. The Soprano part is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The Tenor part is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: tramp - ling down death by death,

Musical score for Soprano and Tenor. The Soprano part is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The Tenor part is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: and up-on those in the tombs be - stow-ing life!

The people are led into the church at this point or at its conclusion.

Priest: Let God arise! Let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate Him flee from before his face

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish;
as wax melts before the fire.

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: So shall sinners perish before the face of God
But let the righteous be glad.

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: This is the day which the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit!

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages!

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead
trampling on death by death

All: And upon those in the tombs bestowing Life!

** When all are ready and in place the Priest proclaims:*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The People Shout The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Church Bells are rung joyously proclaiming The Resurrection!

The Organ Immediately Responds with a Triumphant Fanfare!

The purple cloths are removed and the following or the Gloria is sung.



Priest:

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia.

The congregation continues:

Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and
wis - dom and strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and
glo - ry are his. This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our
God. Al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
God and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to God and the
Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. This is the feast of
vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be -
- gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People And with your spirit.

Priest: 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.

People Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Lector: A Reading from The Epistle to The 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

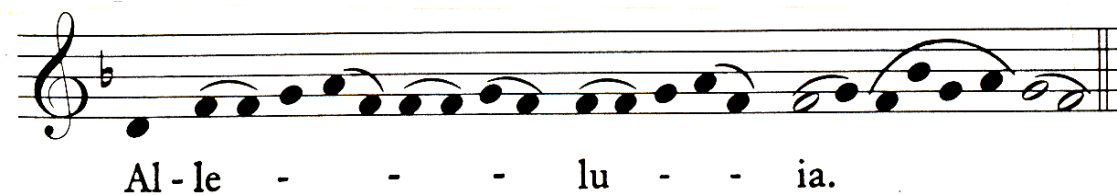
Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. the death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Lector: The Word of The Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE GREAT EASTER ALLELUIA.

This Alleluia is traditionally sung three times by the Priest at successively higher pitches. The congregation repeating it each time.



Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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, "Shalom!" ("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."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you Lord Christ!

THE SERMON

The Nicene Creed, having been said previously is not said again. The celebration continues with the Prayers of the People. The Deacon and People pray responsively

Deacon: Father, we pray for your Holy Orthodox Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Deacon: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Deacon: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers

of your Holy Mysteries.

Deacon: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Deacon: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Deacon: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Deacon: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Deacon: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Deacon: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Deacon: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence

Deacon and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest then pronounces this absolution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has left power to his Church
to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him,
of his great mercy forgive you all your offenses;
and by his authority committed to me,
I absolve you from all your sins: ✠
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Priest may begin the Offertory with the following sentence

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the
victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth
is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as
head over all.

1 Chronicles 29:11

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of
bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or Priest.
The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the
Altar.*

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love, Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Priest: Pray, Brothers and Sisters, that our sacrifice be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands to the praise and glory of his Name, for our benefit, and that of all his holy Church

The Prayer over the gifts:

Priest: Accept, O Lord, the prayers and offerings of your people, so that what has begun with the Paschal Mysteries, may become for us an invitation to life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ you Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Anaphora

The people remain standing

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Priest proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks;

for you alone are God, living and true,
dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

O Fountain of life and source of all goodness,
you made all things and fill them with your blessing;
you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night
and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer
you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to
every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your
Name, as we sing,

Priest and People:

Martin E. Boehling

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the
high-est.

Then the Priest continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power.
Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.
You formed us in your own image,
giving the whole world into our care,
so that, in obedience to you, our Creator,
we might rule and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you,
you did not abandon us to the power of death.
In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you
we might find you.

Again and again you called us into covenant with you,
and through the prophets you taught us to hope for
salvation.

Father,
you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time
you sent your only Son to be our Savior.
Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
he lived as one of us, yet without sin.

To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation;
to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.
To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death;
and, rising from the grave, destroyed death,
and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves,
but for him who died and rose for us,

he sent the Holy Spirit,
his own first gift for those who believe,
to complete his work in the world,
and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Priest is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you,
his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the
world, he loved them to the end;
at supper with them he 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."
Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead,
proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right

hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Priest and People

Musical score for Soprano and Tenor. The Soprano part is in treble clef and the Tenor part is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "We pray to you, O Lord, and we hum-bly be-seech your ma-jes-ty,"

Musical score for Soprano and Tenor. The Soprano part is in treble clef and the Tenor part is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "that our prayer may rise to you, O God most mer-ci-ful." A rehearsal mark '3' is present at the beginning of the Soprano line.

The Priest continues

**Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy
your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, ✠
and upon these gifts, ✠
sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for
your holy people,
the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Grant that all who share this bread and cup
may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in
Christ, to the praise of your Name.**

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ.
Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all Orthodox Patriarchs, **N.** our Bishop,
the presbyters and deacons
and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all who are baptized (illumined) on this night.
Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ,
and those whose faith is known to you alone;
bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the
Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles,
and martyrs, with Saint **N.** and all the saints who have
found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union
with them and give you glory
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

The priest elevates the Chalice and Paten saying

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

People: AMEN!!!

Priest: Let us pray:
Instructed by your saving precepts,
and having been taught these divinely formed words,

we dare 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.

Priest: Deliver us, ✠ O God, from all evils: past, present, and to come, and by the prayers of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Mother of God, of your blessed apostles Peter and Paul, of Andrew, and of all the saints, graciously give us peace in our days; that through your merciful help may we always be free from sin and safe from all disquietude: through the same Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Priest breaks the Consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Congregation

Christ our pass-o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us: There-fore let us keep the

1 feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 feast.

The Priest turns to the faithful, holds the Paten and Chalice and says:

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God!
Behold him who takes away the sin of the world!

People: Lord I am not worthy
that you should come under my roof.
Say but the word, and my soul shall be healed.

People: I believe, O Lord and I confess that you are truly the
Christ, The Son of the living God, who came into the
world to save sinners, of whom I am the greatest.

I believe also, that this which I am about to receive
is truly your most pure Body and life-giving Blood;

Wherefore, I pray, have mercy on me
and forgive my transgressions,
both voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed,
committed in knowledge or in ignorance;
And grant that I may partake of your Holy Mysteries
without condemnation for the forgiveness of all my
sins and for life everlasting.

O Son of God accept me this day
as a partaker of Your Mystical Supper;
for I will not reveal the Mystery to your enemies,
nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas,
but like the thief, will I say: ✠ Remember me, O Lord,
when you come into your kingdom.

O Lord, may the partaking of your Holy Mysteries
be not to my judgment or condemnation,
but for the healing of my soul and body.



Quietly

1 Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest; Nay, let us be thy
2 We meet, as in that up - per room they met; Thou at the ta - ble,

guests; the feast is thine; Thy - self at thine own board make man - i - fest
bless - ing, yet dost stand: "This is my Bo - dy"; so thou giv - est yet:

In this our Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.
Faith still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand. A - men.

3 One body we, one Body who partake,
One Church united in communion blest;
One name we bear, one Bread of life we break,
With all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.

4 One with each other, Lord, for one in thee,
Who art one Saviour and one living Head;
Then open thou our eyes, that we may see;
Be known to us in breaking of the Bread. Amen.

It is an ancient tradition to sing the Lauds of Easter on this night:

The Alleluia is sung first by the Deacon then the People



PSALM 150 *Laudate Dominum*



- 1 Praise God in his holy temple; *
praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; *
praise him for his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
praise him with lyre and harp.
- 4 Praise him with timbrel and dance; *
praise him with strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; *
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath *
praise the LORD. Hallelujah!



Antiphon:

And ver-y ear-ly in the morn-ing, of the first day of the week,
 they came to the tomb, at sun - rise, al-le-lu - ia!

The Song of Zechariah **Benedictus Dominus Deus Luke 1:68-79**

Cantor: Bless-ed be the Lord, the God of Is-rael; *

All: he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, ↓
 that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy cov-en-ant.

This was the oath he swore to our father A-braham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him with-out fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High*
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

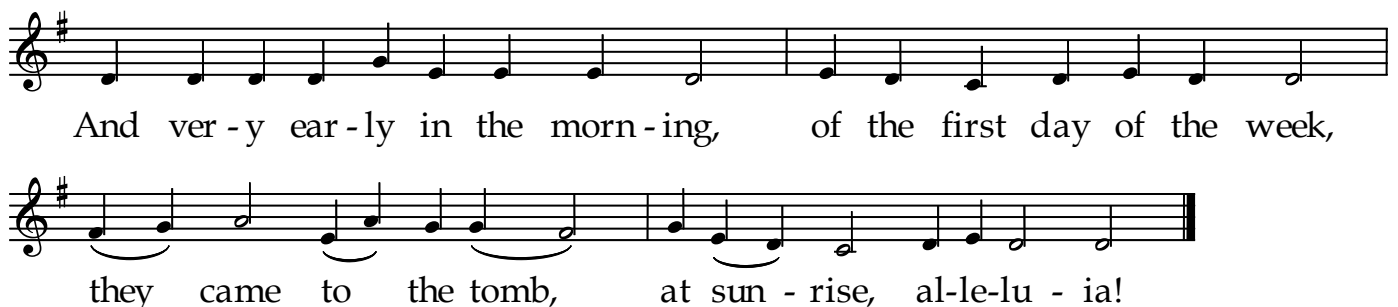
To give his people knowledge of sal-vation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, ↓
and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever,
for all ages of ages. Amen.

Antiphon:



And ver - y ear - ly in the morn - ing, of the first day of the week,
they came to the tomb, at sun - rise, al - le - lu - ia!

In place of the usual prayer of thanksgiving the following may be said:

Priest Let us pray.

A Song to the Lamb: *Dignus es*
Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, *
and by your will they were created and have being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, *
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and for evermore.

People: Amen!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow down your heads before the Lord.

Priest 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.

People: Amen!

Priest 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 forever.

People: Amen!

Priest 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.

People: Amen!

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

People: Amen!

Deacon:



Let us bless the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

People:



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

As the Postlude is played the Procession forms and goes out the front doors of the Church (weather permitting) and into the Dining Room for the blessing of the foods and the Agape.

BLESSINGS OVER FOOD AT EASTER

These blessings are appropriate for use by households at the principal meal on Easter Day. They may be used at a parish meal following the Easter Vigil. They may also be used over foods brought to the church

for blessing. At the conclusion of the blessings the priest blesses the foods with Holy Water.

Over Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of the fruit of the vine: Grant that we who share this wine, which gladdens our hearts, may share for ever the new life of the true Vine, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God; you bring forth bread from the earth and make the risen Lord to be for us the Bread of life: Grant that we who daily seek the bread which sustains our bodies may also hunger for the food of everlasting life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Over Lamb

Stir up our memory, O Lord, as we eat this Easter lamb that, remembering Israel of old, who in obedience to your command ate the Paschal lamb and was delivered from the bondage of slavery, we, your new Israel, may rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the true Lamb who has delivered us from the bondage of sin and death, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Over Eggs

O Lord our God, in celebration of the Paschal feast we have prepared these eggs from your creation: Grant that they may be to us a sign of the new life and immortality promised to those who follow your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Over Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God; you have given us the risen Savior to be the Shepherd of your people: Lead us, by him, to springs of living waters, and feed us with the food that endures to eternal life; where with you, O Father, and with the Holy Spirit, he lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Note: We take this opportunity to thank all those who help defray the cost of the Holy Week and Paschal expenses. Whether we have 10 people or 100 people the costs involved are practically the same and your generosity is very much appreciated. The collection basket is hidden under the candle stand.