



Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church Green Valley, Arizona

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THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

4 APRIL 2026

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

In the darkness, fire is kindled.

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

Let us pray.

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

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

The light of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Other candles, except for those at the Altar, may also be lighted.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

Then the Cantor, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet.

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

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,
bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.

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

Cantor The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Cantor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Cantor 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 man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People *Amen.*

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

THE STORY OF CREATION (*Genesis 1:1—2:4a*)

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 (*To be read by All*)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever.

Give thanks to the God of gods, for his mercy endures for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his mercy endures for ever.

Who only does great wonders, for his mercy endures for ever;

Who by wisdom made the heavens, for his mercy endures for ever;

Who spread out the earth upon the waters, for his mercy endures for ever;

Who created great lights, for his mercy endures for ever;

The sun to rule the day, for his mercy endures for ever;

The moon and the stars to govern the night, for his mercy endures for ever.

Who remembered us in our low estate, for his mercy endures for ever;

And delivered us from our enemies, for his mercy endures for ever;

Who gives food to all creatures, for his mercy endures for ever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his mercy endures for ever.

Celebrant Let us pray. (*silence*)

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA (*Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21*)

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Canticle 8: The Song of Moses (*To be read by All*)

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted;
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge;
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 warrior;
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 overwhelmed them;
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious 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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Celebrant Let us Pray. (*silence*)

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to
our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty
arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a
sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of
Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be

numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Celebrant Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

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

People I do.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

*People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.*

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

BLESSING OF BAPTISMAL WATER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE SPRINKLING RITE

AT THE EUCHARIST

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father: receive our prayer.

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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

THE EPISTLE: Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

THE PSALM (114) *Please respond at the half-verse.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of
strange speech, | 6 You mountains, that you skipped like
rams? * you little hills like young
sheep? |
| 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion. | 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of
the Lord, * at the presence of the God
of Jacob, |
| 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back. | 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool
of water * and flint-stone into a flow-
ing spring. |
| 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep. | |
| 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back? | |

The Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

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, "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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON The Rev. Daniel J. Messier

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Filled with joy on this Easter Eve let us, with confidence and
hope, place our needs before our loving Father.

Lector Let us pray.
For all the holy people of God, that we may embrace the cross

and follow Christ as ministers of reconciliation in a broken world;

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Lector For the peoples and leaders of nations, that we may preserve and care for the blessings of this world;

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Lector For the alienated and rejected, that all may come to a renewed hope in God's love for all people;

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Lector For this community, that during this holy season God's grace may abound in us and strengthen our resolve to love one another as Christ loves us;

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Lector For the sick, the suffering, the isolated and the lonely, (especially...); that we may place our cares upon God, our hope and consolation;

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Lector For all who serve in our Armed forces and all those close to our hearts who are serving in harm's way; hold them safely in the palm of your hand;

Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Lector For those who have died, (especially ...); that they may share new life in God's heavenly kingdom;

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Lector For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives;

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Lector Let us pray for our own needs and those of others (*the people may add personal petitions*).

Deacon O God of our redemption, Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may walk the path of life with renewed faith and a right heart to devoutly serve you in our brothers and sisters, through Christ our Savior.

People Amen.

All stand for

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 304 stanzas 1, 2 & 3

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.

the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,

3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
That love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

AT THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer A, expanded language version*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

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

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

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us
for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become
subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus
Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human

nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior

Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Together Our Father, who art in heaven...

...for ever and ever. Amen.

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The elements are offered at the Communion Rail and may be received either kneeling or standing. Wine is received by intinction only. If you would like to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. Please remember to follow Usher's directions.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 180

1. He is risen, he is risen!
Tell it out with joyful voice:
he has burst his three days' prison;
let the whole wide earth rejoice:
death is conquered, we are free,
Christ has won the victory.

2. Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,
with glad smile and radiant brow!
Death's long shadows have departed;
Jesus' woes are over now,
and the passion that he bore—
sin and pain can vex no more.

3. Come, with high and holy hymning,
hail our Lord's triumphant day;
not one darksome cloud is dimming
yonder glorious morning ray,
breaking o'er the purple east,
symbol of our Easter feast.

4. He is risen, he is risen!
He hath opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison,
risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam
on our longing eyes shall stream.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Christ the Lord is risen again

J.C. Kittel, 1732-1809

