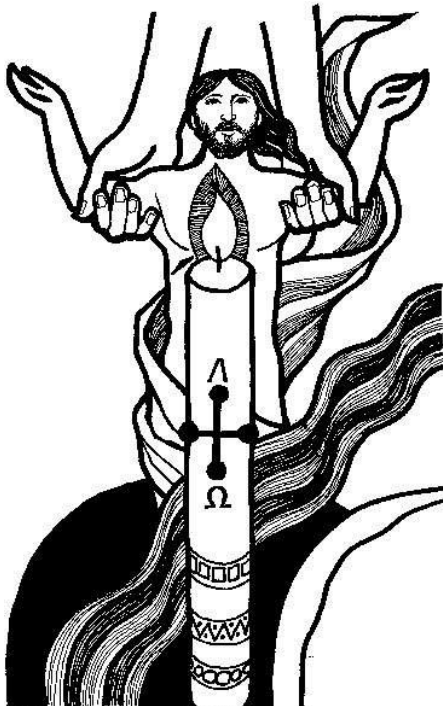


# The Great Vigil of Easter

Filmed on the Waterfront at the  
Watermen's Museum  
in Yorktown, Virginia  
Virtual Worship – April 11, 2020 7PM



## ***We welcome you to our worship this Easter.***

*The Great Vigil is an ancient liturgy in the Christian tradition that is the first proclamation of the Resurrection each year.*

*Our service follows the Jewish tradition of the day beginning at sunset. So it is that as the sun sets, we light the darkness with our candles, our joy, and our remembrance of our Lord's Resurrection. We seek to create a time and space where people can connect with the Easter story.*

*We hope you find this virtual service meaningful. Use this bulletin to participate from your home. Watch the video at*

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6n-LvBdSZjq0XOYmG-\\_5MA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6n-LvBdSZjq0XOYmG-_5MA)**

*May God's peace and blessings be with you.*

*~The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*Before the service: have a few candles and a lighter of some sort near. Also have a bell of some kind, it might be a spoon tapped against a glass or a jingle bell from a Christmas decoration. You might think about having another household join via phone or Facetime.*

## **The Lighting of the Paschal Candle**

*As the service begins a new fire is kindled – light one candle in your home.*

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.

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 candles of the parishes are lit at this time. They will be used throughout Easter as well as at Baptisms and Burial rites throughout the year.*

Deacon: The light of Christ

***The people respond: Thanks be to God***

## **The Exultet**

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

Mr. Charles Humphries, Ware Episcopal Church, cantor

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.

Deacon The Lord be with you.

*Answer And also with you.*

Deacon Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, 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. *Amen.*

#### 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 First Lesson:** *Genesis 1:1-2:2*

read by the Very Rev. Gary Barker, Kingston Episcopal Parish

**Response: Psalm 36:5-10**

- 5 Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, \*  
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.

### Collect

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.*

**The Second Lesson:** Genesis 22:1-18

read by the Rev. Jennifer Tillman, Apostles Lutheran Church

### Response: Psalm 16

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*  
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 multiplied.  
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 heritage.  
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 evermore

### Collect

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

**The Third Lesson:** Exodus: 14:10-15:1

read by the Rev. John Ericson, Reformation Lutheran Church

### Response: The Song of Moses *Cantemus Domino*

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.

### Collect

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. *Amen.*

### The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

led by the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Soltys, Grace Episcopal Church

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.

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.*

*The Celebrant prays:* 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. Amen.*

*The Celebrant then says to the People*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Celebrant: You may greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.

*The people may ring bells and greet one another in the name of Christ. At this time light the other candles you have gathered.*

**Hymn 207:** *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

- 1 Jesus Christ is risen today,  
our triumphant holy day,  
who did once upon the cross,  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
  
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
unto Christ, our heavenly King,  
who endured the cross and grave,  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
  
- 3 But the pains which he endured,  
our salvation have procured;  
now above the sky he's King,  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
  
- 4 Sing we to our God above  
praise eternal as his love;  
praise him, all ye heavenly host,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

## The Collect for Easter

Celebrant: 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.*

## Gospel Procession:

Tune: Caribbean

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

## The Gospel

proclaimed by the Rev. Barbara Marques, St. John's Episcopal Church

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

*People Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Matthew 28:1-10

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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## Homily

Rev. Thomas Haynes, Christ the King Episcopal Church

## Prayers of the People

led by the Rev. Bruce Cheney, St. George's Episcopal Church

Leader O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. In this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the Church and the world.

*People Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader For all affected by the coronavirus around the world. For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good; may all barriers that divide us, be brought down so bonds of trust may be strengthened to benefit the entire human family.

*People Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader Grant public health and government officials in our nation the strength and will to act swiftly and decisively, with wisdom and compassion in service to all. We pray especially for Donald, our President, the Congress, Governors, and all elected officials;

*People Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they have access to medical care and regain their strength and health; grant them your healing grace. Give strength to all who are caring for loved ones;

**People**                    **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**                For healthcare workers, who with hearts of service, stand on the front lines providing care. Grant them courage and protection as they put the needs of public before their own;

**People**                    **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**                For the safety and well-being of all who travel and those who remain quarantined;

**People**                    **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**                Remove the presence of fear and anxiety from our hearts, that confident in your providence we may be generous in sharing our resources;

**People**                    **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**                Grant that our churches and communities of faith may reflect your love, as they minister to the most vulnerable among us; fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be your healing hands and feet to all in need;

**People**                    **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader**                For those who have lost loved ones to the virus, and those who will suffer such loss, that they may know the consolation of your love;

**People**                    **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant**            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 forever.

**People**                    **Amen.**

**All**                      Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

May the living God remove the suffocating shroud that lies upon our world; may the risen Savior draw the sting of death, bringing all to life in him; May the flowing Spirit set us and all creation free and seal our hearts with faith; and the blessing of God who creates us, redeems us, and sustains us be always with you.                    **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

*Deacon*            Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*People*              Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Minister of Ceremonies  
Minister of Music and video

the Rev. Sven vanBaars, Abingdon Episcopal Church  
Ms. Suzanne Daniel, Grace Episcopal Church

The 2020 Great Vigil of Easter was filmed on the beach at the Watermen's Museum in Yorktown during a state of emergency due to the Corona virus outbreak. Filming followed all applicable directives of state officials to prevent the spread of the virus. Images from previous Vigils were incorporated into the video to represent our experience of proclaiming the Resurrection

Thanks you to Steve Ormsby and the Watermen's Museum, our hosts in this endeavor for many years.



*The Episcopal Church and  
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Welcome You*

Abingdon Episcopal Church  
4645 Geo. Wash. Hwy. (Route 17) White Marsh, VA  
[www.abingdonchurch.org](http://www.abingdonchurch.org)

Apostles Lutheran Church  
7092 Main Street  
Gloucester, VA  
<http://apostles-elca.com>

Christ the King Episcopal Church  
4109 Big Bethel Road, Tabb, VA 23693  
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Grace Episcopal Church  
111 Church Street, Yorktown, VA 23690  
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Kingston Parish  
370 Main Street, Mathews, VA 23109  
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13100 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA 23602  
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