St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church Atlanta, Georgia



The Great Vigil of Easter
April 8, 2023

The Holy Eucharist 7 P.M.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The congregation will gather in the Parish Hall, where fire is kindled.

The Celebrant addresses the people with these words

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 Procession

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire. Others light their candles from the Paschal Candle. The Cantor leads the procession to the church, pausing three times and singing



The procession continues into the church, where the Paschal Candle is placed in its stand. The people remain standing as the Cantor, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet, as follows

The Exsultet sung by the 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.

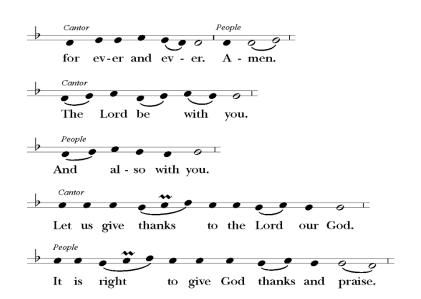
Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

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 God's Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with God,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,



The Cantor continues with

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.

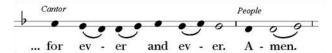
This is the night, when you brought our forebears, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land. This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life. This is the night, when 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 we are reconciled to God.

Holy God, 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



The Liturgy of the Word

The Celebrant introduces the Scripture readings with these words

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

The First Lesson The Story of Creation Genesis 1:1-2:4a

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.

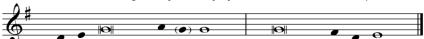
Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; 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. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God

Psalm 136: 1-8, 23-26

The Cantor sings the first half of each verse, and all respond with the second half.



Give thanks to the LORD, who is / good, God's mercy endures / for ever.

Give thanks to the God of / gods, God's mercy endures / for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord of / Lords, God's mercy endures / for ever.

Who only does great / wonders,
God's mercy endures / for ever;

Who by wisdom made the / heavens, God's mercy endures / for ever;

Who spread out the earth upon the / waters, God's mercy endures / for ever;

Who created great / lights,
God's mercy endures / for ever;

The sun to rule the / day,
God's mercy endures / for ever;

The moon and the stars to govern the / night, God's mercy endures / for ever.

Who remembered us in our / low estate, God's mercy endures / for ever;

And delivered us from our / enemies, God's mercy endures / for ever;

Who gives food to all / creatures, God's mercy endures / for ever.

Give thanks to the God of / heaven, God's 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.**

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, and went into the sea after them, all of 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 the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 648 When Israel was in Egypt's land

Go Down, Moses

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 Celebrant continues with

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 now proclaim, therefore, that our Lenten observance is ended.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn 207 Jesus Christ is risen today Easter Hymn

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect said by all

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 199 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain St. Kevin

The Gospel Matthew 28:1-10

Priest 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."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily The Reverend. Maggie Harney

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant Let us now renew our baptismal covenant.

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

People I do.

Celebrant Do you believe 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 says,

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.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Greetings & Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem An Easter Greeting Martin How

Christ is risen, Christ is risen, tell it with a cheerful voice,
Christ is risen, Christ is risen, let the whole world rejoice.
Alleluia, alleluia, death is conquered, we are free,
Christ is risen, Christ is risen, Christ has won the victory.
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
I know that my redeemer liveth.

The Lord is risen, The Lord is risen, indeed.

Offertory Hymn

Handel



The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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 his death he has destroyed death, and by his 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:

Sanctus S. 128

Holy, holy, holy Lord

The people stand 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 Father of all.

He 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 Lord 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 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him, 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 your Son Jesus Christ. By Him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S. 155

Christ our Passover

Celebrant

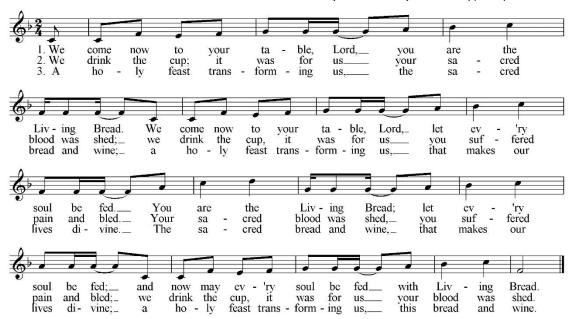
The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion of the People All people are invited to receive Communion.

Hymn at Communion 184

We come now to your table, Lord

Island of St. Vincent folk melody, adapt. and arr. Patrick Prescod



Prayer after Communion Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen

Easter Blessing

The blessing of God who creates life, Be upon you as you celebrate life.

The blessing of God who restores life, Be upon you as you seek new life.

The blessing of God, who sanctifies life, Be upon you as you give life to others.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn 208

the strife is o'er, the battle done

Victory

The Dismissal

Response Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*Diademata*George J. Elvey
Arr. Mark Hayes

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Easter Flowers & Music

In appreciation of our St. Dunstan's Choir for your dedication and beautiful contribution to our worship services.

Penny France; Kate Gaul; Elise Gaul; Fina Hernandez;

Nancy Knight Latimore; Marilyn Morgan; Shirley Morgan; Andrea Patten Weerakoon; Vivian Siggers; Jeanne Taylor; Suzanne Van de Mark

Cameron Carey; Bruce Lafitte; John Morgan; Lee Morris; Ben Thomas; Jon Throop

In memory of Joe Monti and in honor of Tricia and Joseph Henry by Tom Gibbs and Steven Schneider.

In honor of Tricia and Joseph Henry Monti by Debbie Beverly.

In thanksgiving for Rhea Hannah by Mary Jane Hannah.

In memory of my mother, Lee McAlpine by Gwen McAlpine.

In celebration of Mallory Ader's birthday, with love CeeGee.

Sandra Dobbs.

In memory of Kay Adams by Ralph Paulk.

In memory of Jim Grube and Gilda Morris by Lee Morris & Marilyn Morgan.

In appreciation of our sons Spears Latimore & Harrison Latimore
by Nancy Knight & Keith Latimore.

In thanksgiving for the community of St. Dunstan's by Maggie Harney.

Participants this evening

Celebrant: The Reverend Maggie Harney

Lay reader: Claudia Gimson
Lectors: Elizabeth Wong Mark

Ralph Paulk

Videographer Ralph Paulk

St. Dunstan's Church Choir

St. Dunstan's Altar Guild

Holy Week Schedule & After

Stations of the Cross have been installed in the church if you'd like to Walk the Way of the Cross.

Decorate the Easter flower cross as you come into church.

Easter Sunday (April 9) One service at 10:00 The Reverends Maggie Harney, Bill Deneke and Deborah Silver

1st Sunday after Easter (April 16) - One service at 10:00 - Tricia returns and we will have our Annual Parish Meeting

Vestry 2022 - 2023

Bob Longino, Sr. Warden; Vivian Siggers, Jr. Warden; Lynn Hood; Gwen McAlpine; Elizabeth Wong Mark; Michele Smither; Wayne Hood; Max Changus; Susie Throop

The Reverend Patricia Templeton, Rector

The Reverend Maggie Harney, Priest Associate
Cameron Carey, Parish Musician
Claudia Gimson, Parish Administrator
Rhea Hannah, Volunteer Administrative Assistant



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