



THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

April 8th

8:00 pm

God loves you. No exceptions.

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.



Welcome! It is wonderful have you with us. Everybody you see here was a newcomer at one time, and we've all had questions—possibly like some that you may have today.

The faith community of St. Thomas's Parish believes that everyone has been invited to follow the Way of Jesus, who commands us to love God and to love our neighbors. Therefore, we are committed to embrace and respect people of every age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity; people who live with all mental and physical abilities, in all socio-economic conditions, in all household compositions, and with every citizenship status, including immigrant and refugee; people who hold diverse political and theological backgrounds, beliefs, and questions. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, as God's beloved, you are worthy and welcome here!

Today's Service

We are worshipping both in-person and via live-stream on YouTube. Full-text bulletins are distributed at all services and posted on our parish website. At the in-person service, "busy bags" for children and a dedicated sensory-friendly "soft space" can be found at the back of the sanctuary. We follow directions from our diocese for in-person pandemic precautions; masking is currently optional.

We commit ourselves to ensuring that our place of worship is a safe place where all can feel comfortable and know that they are accepted and loved. In the Episcopal church, everybody doesn't always do things in the same way. But **when you're worshipping God, you can't get it wrong!** If you would like help, ask anyone in the pews around you or speak with Fr. Howie.

Learn More about St. Thomas's

At the end of this booklet, as well as on our website, you will find information about our weekly worship services and about opportunities to learn and grow in the faith through our Christian education programs for all ages. There also you can explore opportunities to join us in service to the Newark community through the Episcopal Campus Ministry and "Blue Hen Bounty" food pantry, through our work in support of the Newark Empowerment Center, through refugee resettlement and other programs of community service.

Thank you for joining us today. Your presence is a blessing to us. Fill out a visitor card in your pew and leave it with a clergyperson or an usher if you would like to be contacted. We hope to see you again soon!

<https://stthomasnewarkde.church/>
<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasEpiscopalChurchNewarkDelaware/>
<https://www.instagram.com/st.thomas.newark.de/>



Easter Flower Dedications

In loving memory of
May Redder

From Jinglan, Mona, Andy and Dennis

With thanksgiving for
our children

From Joy and Alan Lynam

In loving memory of
Marvin and Isabel Snedeker
and Stanley, and Vivian Kinney
from DJ Ferguson

In loving memory of
Sandy Graham
and with thanksgiving for
Sandy, Heather, and Kate
From Barbara Graham

With thanksgiving
From Jack and Marge O'Donnell

In loving memory of
Nicholas Witmer
and with thanksgiving for
Finley Prime
and Meagan and Angie Prime
From Marilyn Prime and Roy Witmer

In loving memory of
Mr and Mrs Charles H Baxter
and Mr and Mrs Michael Petroski, Sr
and Michael Jr and Joseph
From Charles and Diane Baxter

With thanksgiving for
Family and Friends
From Madeline and Greg Johnson

In loving memory of
The Grier and Hammond family loved ones
from Jo-Ann and George Grier

In loving memory of
Anna Mae Burnett, Catherine Burnett
and Sarah Burnett
and with thanksgiving for
David Palermo, Michelle Hodgetts
and Michael Palermo
from Carol Palermo

In loving memory of
Margaret and Winthrop Reed
and Tippy and Caleb Holyoke
From Caleb and Martha Holyoke

In loving memory of
Carol Sausville
From Justin Sausville

With thanksgiving for
Family birthdays (so far this year)
Greg (son) 1/11, Beryl King (mom) 1/12
John Paul (grandson) 1/27, Xavier (grandson) 2/1
Beverly King (sister) 2/15, Anya (granddaughter) 2/24
From Helen Spence

In loving memory of
Raymond Wallace and Helen Boddington Gast
and Wilmer E. and Pauline Sharp
and Garlin S. Smith, Jr.
From Richard and Sheila Sharpe



THE NEW FIRE

The Celebrant begins:

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 ministers and people process into the church following the Paschal candle.

Three times, the deacon chants:

The light of Christ.

The people respond:

Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet

The Cantor chants:

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 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.

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 EASTER VIGIL

First Lesson

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 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.

Meditation

Psalm 46



- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
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 God of hosts is with us;
the God of Ja-/ cob 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 the city; it shall not be overthrown;
God shall help it at / the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall / melt away. *
- 8 The God of hosts is with us;
the God of Ja-/ cob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the Most High,
who does awesome / things on earth. *
- 10 It is God who makes war to cease in all the world,
who 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 God of hosts is with us;
the God of Ja-/ cob is our stronghold.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: 'I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Sing Now With Joy

Hymnal #425

1. Sing now with joy un - to the Lord, for
 2. God is our strength, he is our song, he
 3. He on - ly is the might - y Lord. He

he has__ tri - umphed glor - rious - ly! The horse, the__ rid - er,
 sav'd us__ from our en - e - my. All praise and thanks to
 on - ly__ can des - troy__ the foe. He on - ly__ is to

and the sword he cast in - to the rag - ing sea.
 him be - long who came to__ set his peo - ple free.
 be a - dored for he a - lone can strength be - stow.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

Thus says the Lord God: 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.

Psalm 122



- 1 I was glad when they said to me, "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 with-/ in 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."

Celebrant Let us pray.

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. Amen.

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, prophesy, 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 prophesy, 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.

Organ Improvisation

Celebrant Let us pray.

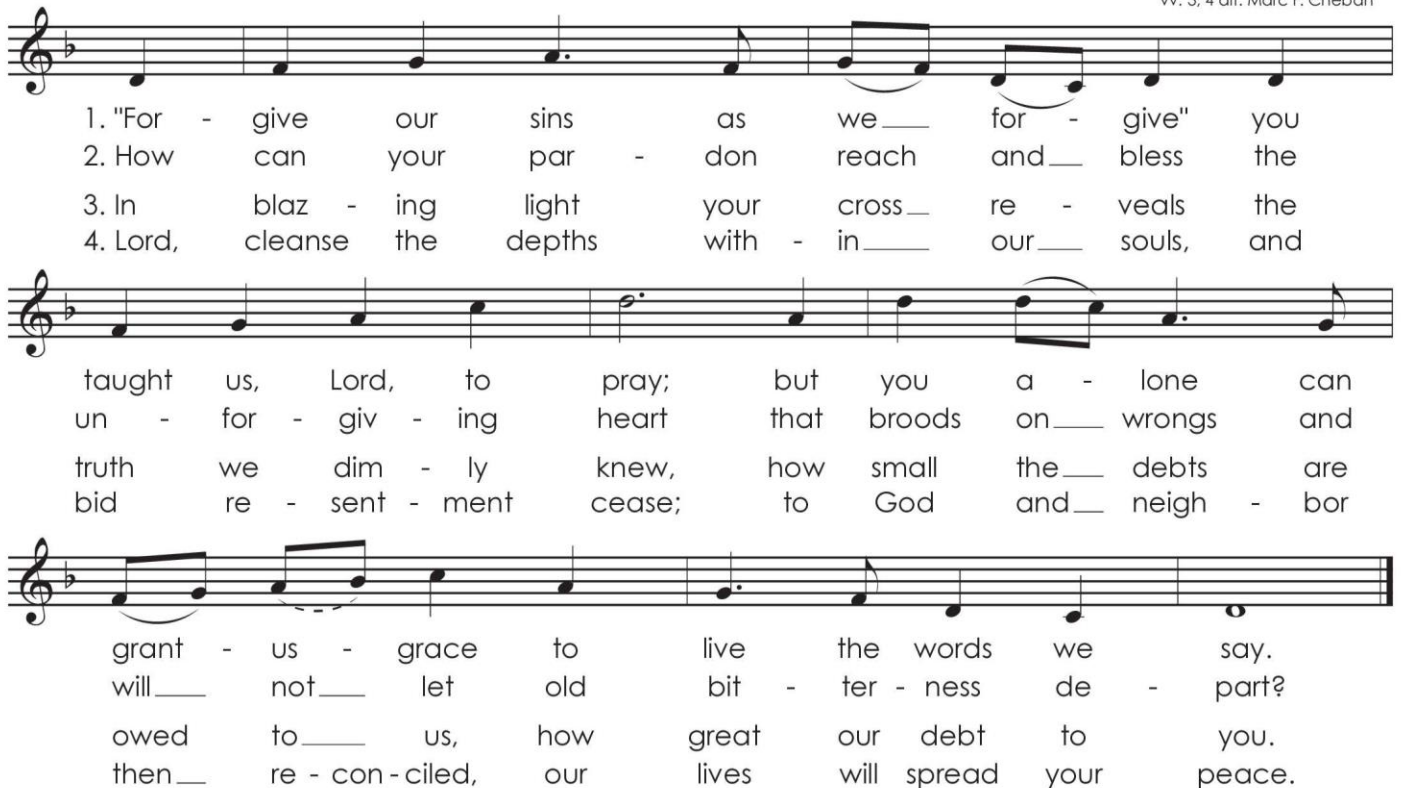
Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

Hymnal 674

vv. 3, 4 alt. Marc F. Cheban



The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in four parts, with the first part being the main melody and the others providing harmonic support or variations.

1. "For - give our sins as we___ for - give" you
 2. How can your par - don reach and___ bless the
 3. In blaz - ing light your cross___ re - veals the
 4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in___ our___ souls, and

taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on___ wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew, how small the___ debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease; to God and___ neigh - bor

grant - us - grace to live the words we say.
 will___ not___ let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to___ us, how great our debt to you.
 then___ re - con - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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. Amen.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Celebrant begins: 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 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.**

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 him thanks and praise.**

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.

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. Amen.

THE FIRST MASS OF EASTER

*The candles on and near the altar are now lit and the electric lights are turned up fully.
All standing*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

Glory to God

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, hea - ven - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy u - pon us.

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Marc F. Cheban

Collect of Easter

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

seated

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.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual anthem

Christ the Lord is Ris'n Again!
-R. Shephard

Christ the Lord is ris'n again! Christ hath broken ev'ry chain!
Hark, angelic voices cry, singing evermore on high,
Alleluia!

He who gave for us his life, who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb today! We too sing for joy and say
Alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss comfortless upon the cross,
Lives in glory now on high, pleads for us, and hears our cry.
Alleluia!

He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings that the Lamb is King of kings.
Alleluia!

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed, Christ, today your people feed;
take our sins and guilt away, let us sing by night and day,
Alleluia!

The Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

standing

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Homily

Prayers of the People

standing or kneeling

In response to each petition, the people sing



Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church throughout the world, that it may boldly and faithfully proclaim the resurrection of Christ to those who do not yet believe, we pray to the Lord...

For Celebrants, priests, and deacons, and for all the leaders of the Church, that they may show forth in their lives the joy and power of new life which we celebrate in our liturgy tonight, we pray to the Lord...

For the leaders of all nations, that they may act with wisdom and mercy, respecting all persons and working for the common good, we pray to the Lord...

For the peace of the world, that we may have grace and power to overcome violence against all, especially the poor and the weak, we pray to the Lord...

For the newly baptized and confirmed, that they may continue to grow with their communities in worship and service, let us pray to the Lord...

For the sick, the disabled, and all who suffer, especially those we name aloud or in our hearts, that the healing of the Easter light will shine in their hearts and bring them renewed life, let us pray to the Lord...

For those who have died, especially those we name aloud or silently in our hearts, that they may share in the promise of new love won for us by the resurrection, we pray to the Lord...

Celebrant Yours, O Lord, is the power and the glory, and to you we give praise,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

standing

Celebrant
People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

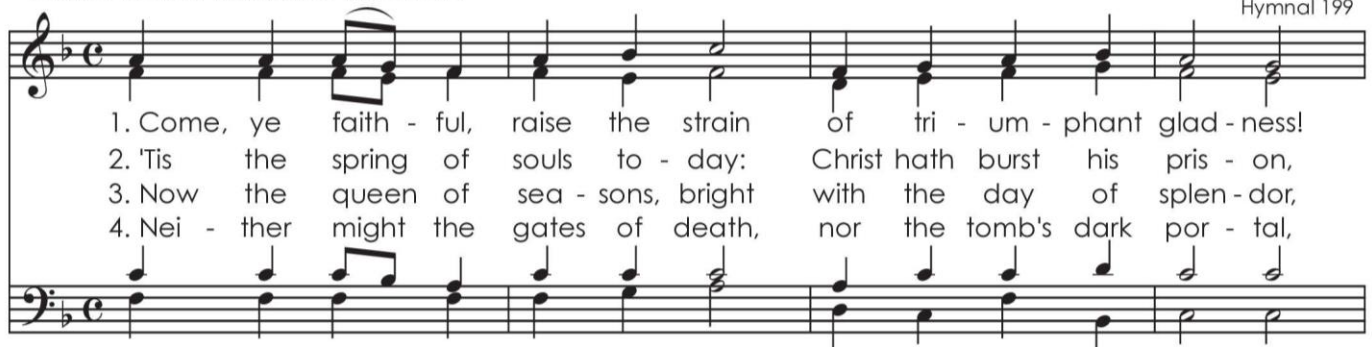
THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

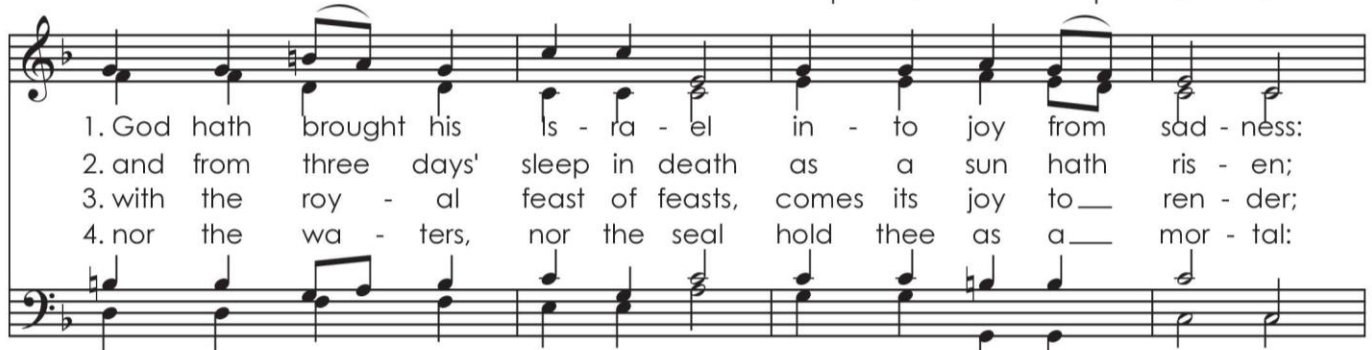
Our offerings are an act of worship through which we respond with gratitude to God's grace, love, and mercy, putting our trust in the Lord into action. You may place your offering in the plate, or—you can give electronically though our website (QR code on the back of this booklet) and place an "online giving" card in the plate. With the bread and the wine, these donations are carried to the altar and offered to the Lord on our behalf.

Come Ye Faithful, Raise The Strain

Hymnal 199



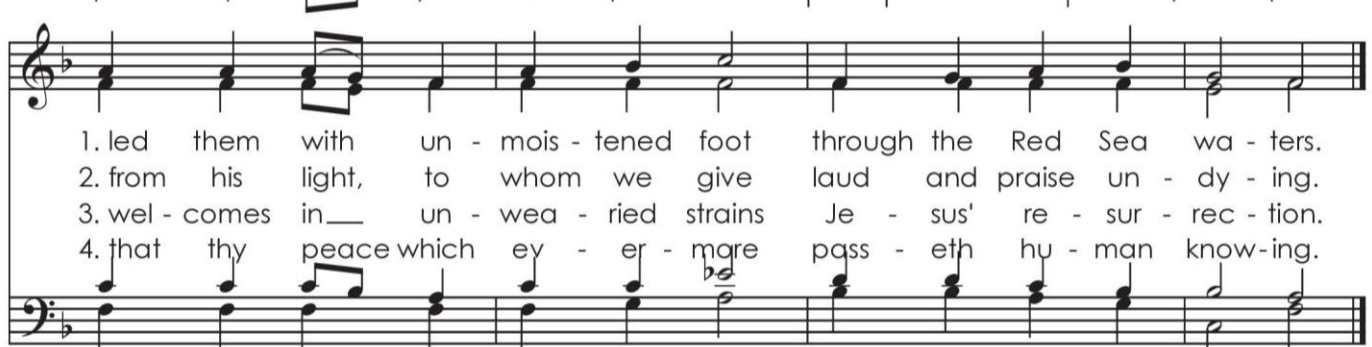
1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pris - on,
3. Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4. Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



1. God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:
2. and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;
3. with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to — ren - der;
4. nor the wa - ters, nor the seal hold thee as a — mor - tal:



1. loosed from Pha - roah's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
2. all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark. is fly - ing
3. comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
4. but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing

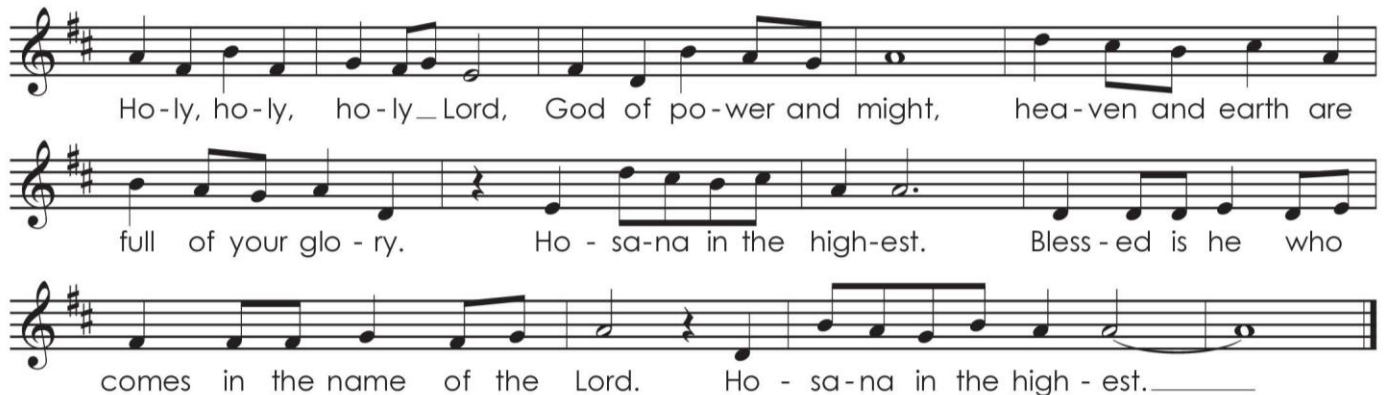


1. led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
2. from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
3. wel - comes in — un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.
4. that thy peace which ey - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues 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. 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:

Sanctus



Marc F. Cheban

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant 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.

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.

Celebrant and People

Acclamation D



The Celebrant 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.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Blessed Nicholas, Blessed Thomas, 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.

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**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.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Fraction Anthem

Marc F. Cheban

Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le-
lu - ia! There-fore let us keep the feast: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le-
lu - ia! His bo - dy feeds us, His blood re - deems us, Al - le -
lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le lu - - - ia!

Celebrant

Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world;
Happy are they who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

All

**O Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof,
but speak the word only, and I shall be healed.**

All are welcome to come forward up the center aisle to receive from the priest either the sacrament of Christ or a blessing. If you desire a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. Receive the host in open hands. Gluten-free bread is available; you may request it from the priest when you come to the front of the line. Receiving the wine is optional. To take the wine, drink from it or intinct (carefully dip) the bread into the cup. Please use the side aisles to return to your pew. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher to let the clergy know, and communion will be brought to you.

The Communion

-silent prayer-

The Post Communion Prayer

People and Celebrant say 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

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. **Amen.**

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 for ever. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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

Processing into the community

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Hymnal #207

4. Sing we to our God a - bove, — A - - - le - lu - ia!

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!

praise e - ter - nal as his — love, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!

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

praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - - - le - lu - ia! Fa -

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

- - - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - - - le - lu - ia!

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

The Dismissal

Deacon
People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Toccata (Symphony 5)- Ch.M. Widor



LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S

StThomasNewarkDe.church 302.368.4644

The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Kristin Sausville
Treasurer: Amy Keach

People's Warden: Philippa Sunnergren
Clerk of the Vestry: Mike Grabowski

Class of 2023

Barbara Graham
Jill Englund Jensen
Madeline Johnson
Kristin Sausville

Class of 2024

Larry Duggan
Cami Seward
Philippa Sunnergren

Class of 2025

Joan Bennett
Marilyn Prime
Mike Grabowski

RECTOR		
The Rev. Howell Sasser	704.578.4724	howell.sasser.jr@gmail.com
PRIEST ASSOCIATE		
The Rev. Juan George	302.834.8341	georgevjtaurus@yahoo.com
DEACON ASSOCIATE		
The Rev. Deacon Sheila Brigid Sharpe, AF	302.593.9951	sgsharpe@comcast.net
ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR		
Marc F. Cheban	302.220.9680	a1b2celeste@yahoo.com
CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES		
Belinda Young-Payne	302.388.4017	belmar43@aol.com
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR		
Cana Hartman	302.354.3277	cana.hartman@gmail.com
REGISTRAR		
Wendy Campbell	302.368.9562	wjcampbell7@yahoo.com
ECM (Episcopal Campus Ministry)		
Denise Burgher, convening advisor	323.627.4782	dburgher@udel.edu
Devon Miller-Duggan, faculty advisor	302.388.4758	
SEXTON		
Kenneth Hansen-Jones	662.832.6862	pioneer64@hotmail.com