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## **Easter Vigil Liturgy of the Word**

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**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1 – 2:2

### **A Reading from the Book of Genesis**

**In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth,**

**Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”**

**Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.**

**Then God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other.” And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome “the sky.”**

**Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.**

**Then God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land**

**may appear.” And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land “the earth,” and the basin of the water he called “the sea.” God saw how good it was. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it.” And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was.**

**Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.**

**Then God said: “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.” And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the**

**day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was.**

**Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.**

**Then God said, “Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.” And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds.**

**God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.”**

**Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.**

**Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.” And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was.**

**Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.**

**Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”**

**God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**

**God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.**

**Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.”**

**God also said:**

**“See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.” And so it happened.**

**God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good**

**Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.**

**Thus, the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed.**

**Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.**

### ***The Word of the Lord***

*(There is a sung Psalm Response and presider's prayer)*

*“The Earth is full of the goodness of the Lord”*

**Second Reading:** Genesis 22:1-18

### **A Reading from the Book of Genesis**

**God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am!” he replied.**

**Then God said: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah.**

**There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you.”**

**Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him his son Isaac, and two of his servants as well, and with the wood that he had**

**cut for the holocaust, set out for the place of which God had told him.**

**On the third day Abraham got sight of the place from afar Then he said to his servants: “Both of you stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over yonder. We will worship and then come back to you.”**

**Thereupon Abraham took the wood for the holocaust and laid it on his son Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife.**

**As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham. “Father!” he said. “Yes, son,” he replied. Isaac continued, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?”**

**“Son,” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust.” Then the two continued going forward.**

**When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next, he tied up his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar.**

**Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD’S messenger called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!”**

**“Here I am, Lord,” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.”**

**As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So, he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh; hence people now say, “On the mountain the LORD will see.”**

**Again the LORD’S messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies,**

**and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command.’**

### ***The Word of the Lord***

*(There is a sung Psalm Response and presider’s prayer)*

*“You are my inheritance, O Lord”*

<b>Third Reading:</b> Exodus 14:15-15:1
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### **A Reading from the Book of Exodus**

**The LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me?**

**Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land.**

**But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them.**

**Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.”**



**The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them.**

**The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel.**

**But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long.**

**Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land.**

**When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.**

**The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea.**

**In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the**

**retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.**

**Then the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers."**

**So, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth.**

**The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst.**

**As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped.**

**But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.**

**Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians.**

**When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they**

**feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses.**

**Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.**

### ***The Word of the Lord***

*(There is a sung Psalm Response and presider's prayer)  
"Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory"*

**Fourth Reading:** Isaiah 54:5-15

### **A Reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah**

**For he who has become your husband is your Maker; his name is the LORD of hosts; Your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, called God of all the earth.**

**The LORD calls you back, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, A wife married in youth and then cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back.**

**In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; But with enduring love I take pity on you, says the LORD, your redeemer.**

**This is for me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; So I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you.**

**Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, My love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you.**

**O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsoled, I lay your pavements in carnelians, and your foundations in sapphires; I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of carbuncles, and all your walls of precious stones.**

**All your sons shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. In justice shall you be established, far from the fear of oppression, where destruction cannot come near you. Should there be any attack, it shall not be of my making; whoever attacks you shall fall before you.**

### ***The Word of the Lord***

*(There is a sung Psalm Response and presider's prayer)  
"I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me"*

## **A Reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah**

**Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!**

**Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy?**

**Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.**

**Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.**

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.**

**For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.**

### ***The Word of the Lord***

*(There is a sung Response and presider's prayer)*

*“You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation”*

<b>Sixth Reading:</b> Bar 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4
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### **A Reading from the Book of Prophet Baruch**

**Hear, O Israel, the commandments of life: listen, and know prudence! How is it, Israel, that you are in the land of your foes, grown old in a foreign land,**

**defiled with the dead, accounted with those  
destined for the nether world?**

**You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom!**

**Had you walked in the way of God, you would have  
dwelt in enduring peace. Learn where prudence is,  
where strength, where understanding; That you  
may know also where are length of days, and life,  
where light of the eyes, and peace.**

**Who has found the place of wisdom, who has entered  
into her treasuries?**

**Yet he who knows all things knows her; he has probed  
her by his knowledge— He who established the  
earth for all time, and filled it with four-footed  
beasts; He who dismisses the light, and it departs,  
calls it, and it obeys him trembling; Before whom  
the stars at their posts shine and rejoice; When he  
calls them, they answer, “Here we are!” shining  
with joy for their Maker.**

**Such is our God; no other is to be compared to him:**

**He has traced out all the way of understanding, and  
has given her to Jacob, his servant, to Israel, his  
beloved son. Since then she has appeared on earth,**

**and moved among men. She is the book of the precepts of God, the law that endures forever; All who cling to her will live, but those will die who forsake her.**

**Turn, O Jacob, and receive her: walk by her light toward splendor. Give not your glory to another, your privileges to an alien race. Blessed are we, O Israel; for what pleases God is known to us!**

### ***The Word of the Lord***

*(There is a sung Response and presider's prayer)  
"Lord, you have the words of everlasting life."*

**Seventh Reading:** Ezekiel 36:18-28

### **A Reading from the Book of Prophet Ezekiel**

**The word of the LORD came to me: Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came.**

**I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it.**



**Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when in their sight I prove my holiness through you.**

**For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land.**

**I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts.**

**I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.**

***The Word of the Lord***

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**Gloria**

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## **A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?**

**We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.**

**For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.**

**We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.**

**For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.**

**We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.**

**As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God.**

**Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.**

### ***The Word of the Lord***

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel:** Matthew 28:1-10

#### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.**

**Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before**

**you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, I have told you.”**

**Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.**

**Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”**

***The Gospel of the Lord***