

# The Easter Vigil *in* the Holy Night



The Very Reverend James T. Kirk, Jr.  
*Celebrant*

St. Mary Magdalen Church  
Wilmington, Delaware

April 19, 2025  
8:00 PM

# The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

## The Lucernarium

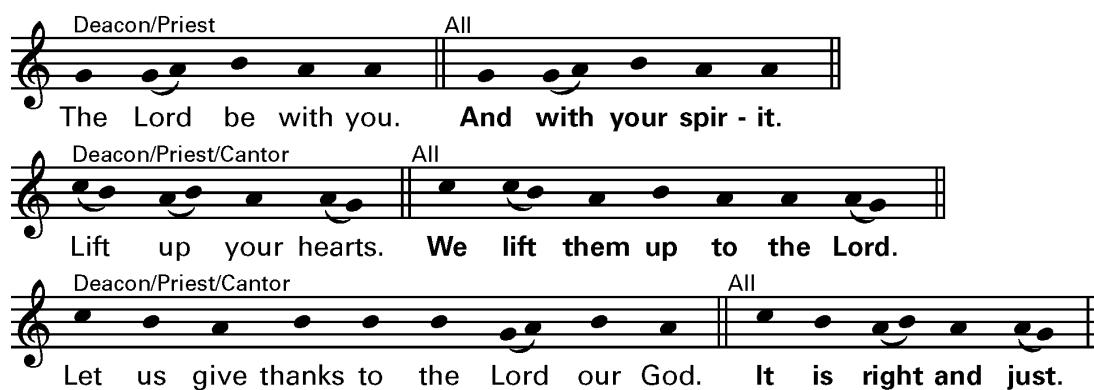
Blessing of the Fire *and* Preparation of the Candle

Procession



The Easter Proclamation (Exultet)

*“Exult, let them exult..... that I may sing this candle’s perfect praises.”*



# The Liturgy of the Word

## Reading I

Genesis 1:1-2:2

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind sweeping over the waters

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 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 waters 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 mankind 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 he 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.

## Psalm 104

Columba Kelly, OSB



## Prayer

## Reading II

Exodus 14:15-15:1

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 hands outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through the 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.

Exodus 15

Columba Kelly, OSB



Prayer

Reading III

Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28

The word of the LORD came to me saying: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefor I poured out my fury upon them because of the blood that they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols. I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations, wherever they came, they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: "These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave their land. "So I have relented because of my holy name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came. Therefore, say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sake 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 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 to your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Psalms 42

Columba Kelly, OSB



Prayer

## Normand Gouin

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on

earth peace to peo-ple of good will. We praise— you, we


 bless you, we a - dore — you, we glo-ri-fy you, we

give you thanks for your great glo-ry,

*Choir or Cantor:* Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son,  
 Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
 you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
 you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer  
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

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 Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the

## Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

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.

## Gospel Acclamation

## Festival Alleluia

James Chepponis



## Gospel

Mark 16: 1-7

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.'"

## Homily

## The Blessing of Water



## The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

*All Stand with lighted candles and renew their baptismal Profession of Faith by responding "I do."  
The Congregation is then sprinkled with the blessed water.*

### I Saw Water

Peter Latona



## Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

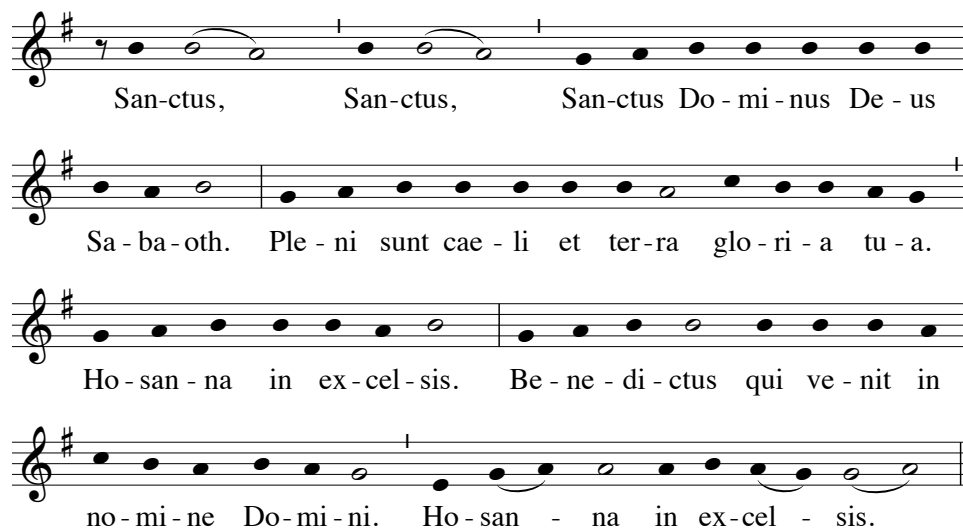
John Behnke

The Choir of St. Mary Magdalen Parish

### Mass of the Transfiguration

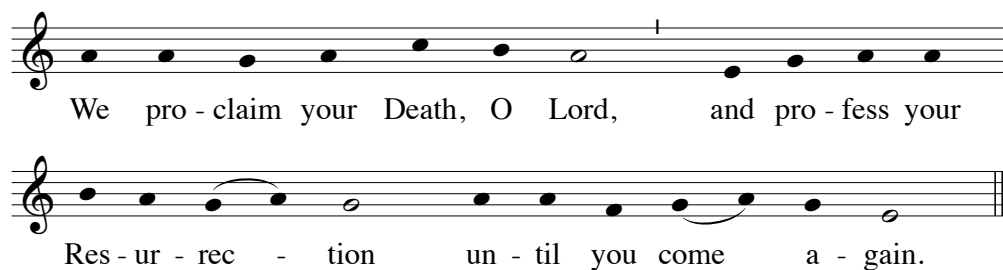
Normand Guoin

Holy





## Mystery of Faith



## Amen



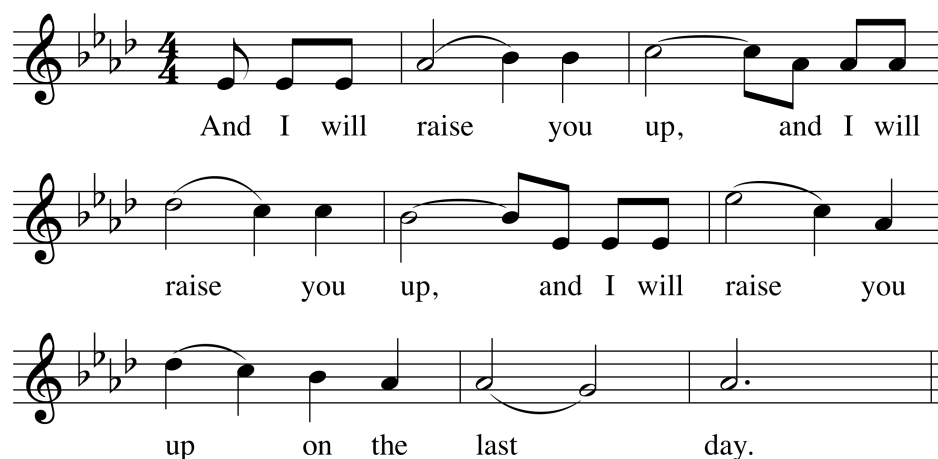
## Lamb of God



## Communion

## I Am the Bread of Life

Suzanne Toolan, RSM



Hymn of Praise

The Hallelujah Chorus

George Frederic Handel


The Choir of St. Mary Magdalen Parish

Prayer after Communion

## Concluding Rites

Greeting, Solemn Blessing *and* Dismissal

*Deacon or priest:*



Go in the peace of Christ, al-le-lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.


*Assembly:*

Thanks be to God, al-le-lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.


Recessional

Jesus Christ is Risen Today


EASTER HYMN




1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day,  
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
3. But the pains which he en-dured,  
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, } Al - le - lu - ia!



1. Our tri - um-phiant ho - ly day,  
2. Un - to Christ, our heav'n-ly King,  
3. Our sal - va - tion have pro-cured;  
4. Praise e - ter - nal as his love, } Al - le - lu - ia!



1. Who did once up - on the cross,  
2. Who en-dured the cross and grave,  
3. Now he reigns a - bove as King,  
4. Praise him, all ye heav'n-ly host, } Al - le - lu - ia!



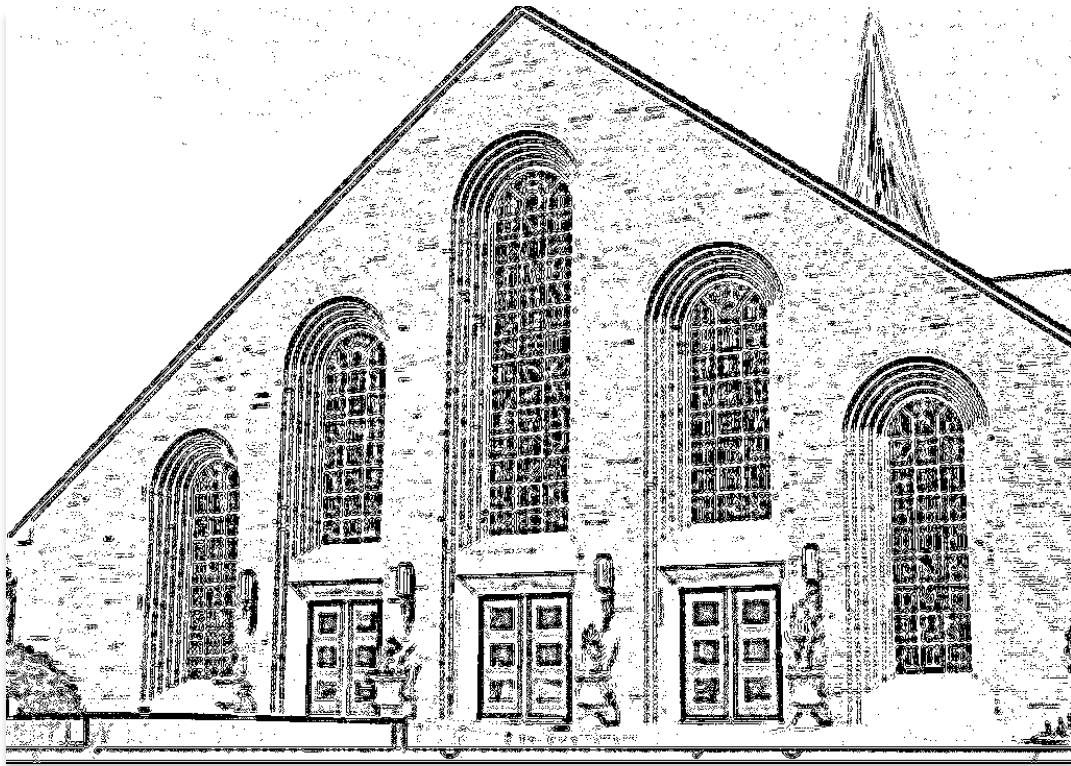
1. Suf - fer to re-deem our loss.  
2. Sin - ners to re-deem and save.  
3. Where the an-gels ev - er sing.  
4. Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. } Al - le - lu - ia!

## Cantors

Peter Campbell  
Karen McCaffrey  
Jennifer Pintal

## Music Ministers

The Adult Choir of St. Mary Magdalen Parish  
Debra Bialecki - Timpani  
Denise Lano – Flute  
The Capitol Brass Quintet  
David John Ifkovits – Director of Music/Organist



Front Cover art:

Fra Angelico, *Resurrection of Christ and Women at the Tomb*, 1442

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*from*  
*Fr. Kirk,*  
*Fr. McVoy,*  
*Deacon Eck,*  
*Deacon Pollio*  
*&*  
*The entire staff of*  
*St. Mary Magdalen Parish*