

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

THE GREAT VIGIL of EASTER April 3, 2021

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

We ask everyone to abide by the following measures as recommended by the CDC and required by state regulations and our host facility:

STAY HOME IF SICK. Stay home if you or anyone in your home has been sick or had symptoms of illness in the last 24 hours.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING. Maintain physical distancing, six feet whenever possible, between yourself and everyone who does not live with you.

FACE COVERINGS. Everyone older than five is required to wear face covering.

WASH HANDS. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Modifications to our Service:

HOLY COMMUNION. The celebrant will drop a wafer in your hands without touching you. If you desire to also receive wine, you may bring a cup from home. The chalice bearer will pour a small amount of wine into your cup for you (and your family). Receiving only the bread is an acceptable way of receiving full communion.

CONCERNING THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

The Great Vigil, when observed, is the first liturgy of Easter Day. It is celebrated at a convenient time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter morning. It is appropriate that the service begin in darkness. The liturgy normally consists of four parts:

The Service of Light: a new fire is kindled, and from it the Paschal Candle is lit, symbolizing Christ, the light of the world. The Exsultet, an ancient song of praise, is sung or said as the climax of this part of the liturgy.

The Service of Lessons: key passages from Scripture recount the history of God's mighty acts and promises. These readings are accompanied by psalms, canticles, and prayers.

Holy Baptism is the Sacrament through which candidates are united to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (romans 6:3-4), which the Church celebrates on this most holy night. When the Bishop is present, confirmation may also be administered. If there are no candidates for Baptism or confirmation, the Congregation joins in a Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

The Holy Eucharist is the proper culmination of the Easter Liturgy. As we keep this holy feast, we share the joy of our Savior's triumph and are strengthened by his grace to walk in newness of life.

THE GREAT VIGIL of EASTER

Congregational responses are indicated in boldface.

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant says

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.

The Celebrant may say the following prayer

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: sanctify this new fire, we pray, and so set us aflame with the fire of your love, that with pure hearts and kindled affections we may attain to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant lights the Paschal Candle from the newly kindled fire, and says

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The Celebrant, bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

THE EXSULTET

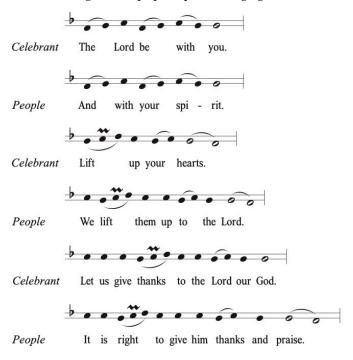
Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

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 his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant sings and the people respond in singing



The Cantor continues

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; who paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, the very Lamb of God,

whose blood marks the doorposts of believers and makes us holy.

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 with a pillar of fire you banished the darkness of our iniquity.

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.

Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed.

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.

O wonderful providence of Adam's sin destroyed completely by the death of Christ. O happy fault, which gained for us

This is the night of which it is written: the night shall be as bright as the day.

so great and glorious a Redeemer.

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.

Therefore, O holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, the gift of your most holy Church.

May it mingle with the lights of heaven, and 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.

The people then sing

A-men.

THE LESSONS

The Celebrant may introduce the Scripture readings in these or similar words

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, remembering how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that God may bring to completion in each of us the saving work he has begun.

THE CREATION GENESIS 1:1–2:3

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All Creatures of our God and King



The Celebrant prays

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.**

THE FALL GENESIS 3

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

- ¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- ² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
- ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- ⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- ⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
- ¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
- ¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, you sent your blessed Son, the seed of the woman, that he might crush the serpent's head and make all creation new: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA EXODUS 14:10—15:1

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul



The Celebrant prays

Let us pray.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, by the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation offered to 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.**

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL

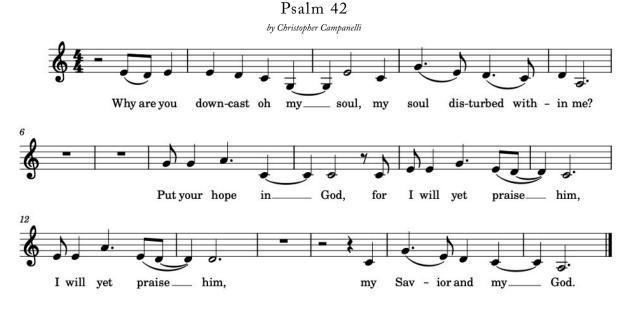
ISAIAH 55:1-11

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Congregation sings the refrain before, in the middle of, and after the Psalm as directed.



PSALM 42:1-7

- ¹ As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.
- ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?
- ³ My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"

- ⁴ These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival.
- ⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation
- ⁶ and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.
- ⁷ Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Celebrant prays

Let us pray.

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give the water of life to all who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES EZEKIEL 37:1-14

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God



THE SERMON

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The people stand. The Celebrant addresses the Congregation in these or similar words

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 the Devil and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Do you, here in the presence of God and the Church, renew the solemn promises and vows made at your Baptism and commit yourself to keep them?

I do.

Do you renounce the Devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God? I renounce them.

Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

I do.

Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

I do.

Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

The Celebrant continues

Let us now reaffirm our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I do. I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

I do. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by 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.

Do you believe and trust in Holy Spirit?

I do. 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. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

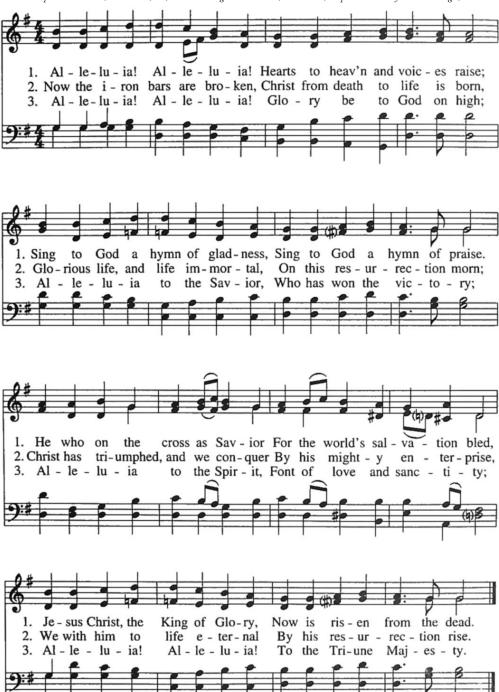
Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

A joyful fanfare may be played, and bells may be rung. The church is lighted, and the candles at the Altar may now be lighted from the Paschal Candle.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827; adapt. and harm. by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867



Praise the Savior Now and Ever

Words: Venantius Fortunatus, ca. 530-609; Tr. by Augustus Nelson, 1863-1949; Music: HOLY MANNA, Attr. to William Moore, 1825; Arr. Benedict/Bradham, 2005, ©2006 Cardiphonia Music

Praise the Savior, now and ever; praise him, all beneath the skies Self denying, suffering, dying, on the cross a sacrifice Victory gaining, life obtaining, now in glory he doth rise

Our work faileth, Christ's availeth; he is all our righteousness He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress Through his merit we inherit light, and peace, and happiness

Sin's bonds severed, we're delivered; Christ has crushed the serpent's head Death no longer is the stronger; hell itself is captive led Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed

For his favor, praise forever unto God the Father sing Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring

THE COLLECT

The Celebrant says to the People

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, you 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 LESSON

ROMANS 6:3-11

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL



MATTHEW 28:1-10

All stand for the Gospel as the Priest reads, first saying

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel, the Priest says

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world saying, "hear our prayer."

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

The leader will invite us to pray silently and then to pray aloud.

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with your spirit.

THE SURSUM CORDA

The Celebrant says to the People

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.





THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

The Celebrant and the People say together

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, once for all upon the Cross. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The celebrant will, as always, wash and sanitize his hands before the service and again right before communion.

To receive communion, come forward as directed by the usher. Extend both of your hands, crossed together, and the priest will drop the bread into your hands without contact. Please maintain physical distance in the communion line.

If you desire to receive wine, please bring a chalice or cup from home. The chalice bearer will pour a small amount of wine into your cup for you (and your family). After receiving the bread (and wine), return to your seats, and remove your face covering to consume the bread and wine.

If you do not desire to commune, you may come forward to receive a blessing or remain seated.

All baptized Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, and strive to walk in love and charity with their neighbors are welcome at this table.

PERSONAL PRAYERS FOR USE DURING COMMUNION

For those who Desire to Commit to the Christian Faith

Lord Jesus Christ, I am broken by sin and unable to save myself. I believe that you died for me, bearing my punishment on the cross, and that you offer me forgiveness and new life in you. I turn from my sins and trust in you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

For those in Search of Truth

God, I am uncertain whether you exist and whether you are listening to me now. I want to know the truth, and I am willing to live according to it. If you are there, please reveal yourself to me and give me faith that leads to the abundant life promised by Jesus Christ. Amen.

For those who Desire a Deeper Faith

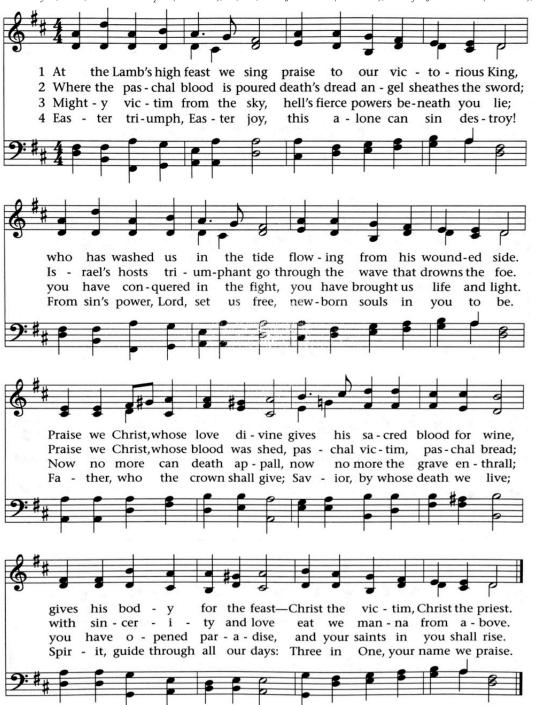
Almighty and eternal God, so draw my heart to you, so guide my mind, so fill my imagination, so control my will, that I may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use me according to your will, for your glory and the welfare of your people. Amen.

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

John of Damascus (ca. 675-749); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.; Public Domain 1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness! 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pri - son, 3 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal, 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry our Lord im - mor - tal, to has brought forth sad - ness, God Is - ra - el in - to joy from from three days' sleep in death ris - en. and as a sun has nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, mor - tal: hold you as a tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal; loosed from Phar-aoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh-ters; All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing a - mong your own, but to - day, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing Al - le - lu - ia! With the Son, God the Fa - ther prais - ing; un - mois-tened foot through the Red Sea led them with wa - ters. from the Light whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing. to your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know-ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Words: Latin Hymn, 17th c., trans. Robert Campbell (1814-1868), alt., P.D.; Music: Jacob Hintze (1622-1702); barm. after Johann S. Bach (1685-1750), P.D.



THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, 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 into the world 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 forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Day of Resurrection



Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Cross Prayer Ministry A team of parishioners is available to pray daily for needs within the parish. Send prayer requests to Tom Harrison at thar65@gmail.com, and he will forward them to team members. All requests are held in strict confidence.

Evening Prayer Join us online via Zoom for Evening Prayer at 5 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays (holycrossva.org/morning-and-evening-prayer).

Men's Bible Study The Holy Cross Men's Bible Study is studying the Book of James on Wednesday mornings via Zoom. Informal chat at 6:30 AM, program at 6:45 AM, and done by 7:30 AM. Contact Mark House (mhouse@empoweringleaders.com) for questions/details.

Crozet Raised Volunteers are needed to support Crozet Raised, a new ministry formed to address food scarcity in our community. Each Saturday (12-2 PM), Legacieats, in partnership with Crozet Baptist Church and generous donors, prepare and distribute 200 hot, home-cooked meals. Kitchen help (packaging meals) and delivery help (to those who cannot pick up at the church) are needed. Questions? Visit Legacieats' Facebook page or contact Meg Clute at meg.clute@gmail.com.

Daily Prayer Booklets The prayer booklets include readings for Easter and Pentecost. Families with young children may appreciate the simplified version also available. Download these booklets through our website (holycrossva.org/common-prayer), or let Kate know if you'd like printed copies.

Charlottesville Church Plant In partnership with our Diocese, we are in the beginning stages of planting a parish in Charlottesville. If you are interested in learning more about this work, visit (holycrossva.org/charlottesville).

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS CLERGY AND STAFF

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