



Saint Benedict Episcopal Church Holy Saturday: The Great Vigil of Easter Saturday, April 3, 2021 | 6pm

Welcome to Saint Benedict Episcopal Church, a church that feels like family! We are glad to have you worship with us today. If you are a newcomer, please complete a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate so we can extend our welcome beyond this service. Additional information about Saint Benedict and our ministries may be found online at www.saintbenedicts.org. Rite I of The Holy Eucharist begins on page 323 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Rite II, on page 355 (BCP) The music for the service is taken from The Hymnal 1982 (H-1982) and Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS). Prepare your hearts to celebrate in Word and Sacrament, the Mass of Resurrection. Today's service begins outside the East entrance of the church with The Service of Light.

About the Easter Triduum: Holy Saturday

The Great Vigil of Easter is the most significant liturgy of the Christian year and is the culmination of the Triduum—the Sacred Three Days. The service begins in total darkness. The sanctuary is slowly illuminated by the candles of the faithful as we observe the Paschal Mystery—the passage from darkness into light, from death into life—told through ancient texts, scriptural readings, and sacred music, telling of God's saving actions through history. Into this story, we welcome those who are to be baptized into the household of God, as we who witness this Sacrament reaffirm our own baptismal vows. The great moment of this night is the celebration of the First Eucharist of the Resurrection, gloriously announced with Alleluias. The Paschal Candle burns as a sign of the presence of the resurrected Christ and will burn throughout the Easter season, known as the Great Fifty Days.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Lighting of the New Fire and Paschal Candle *led by the Celebrant*

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 New Fire is kindled and sanctified with this prayer):

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. **All: Amen.**

(the Paschal Candle is inscribed. The Cross, A and Ω, and the year is traced)

Christ yesterday and today/the beginning and the end/Alpha/and Omega/ all time belongs to him/and all ages/ to him be glory and power/through every age for ever. Amen.



[1] By his holy [2] and glorious wounds [3] may Christ our Lord [4] guard us [5] and keep us. **All: Amen.**

(the Candle is now lit from the New Fire)

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

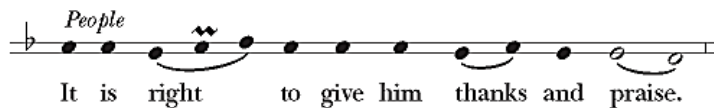
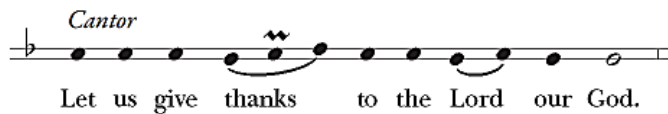
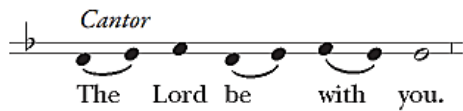
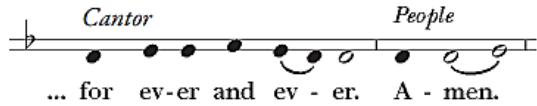
The Paschal Candle Procession into the Church *led by the thurifer, cross, and ministers*

The procession pauses three times and at each pause the following is sung three times, successively higher:

<i>Cantor</i>	<i>People</i>
	
The light of Christ.	Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet

Cantor: Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King. Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people. All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God . . .



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 . . .



Invitation to Hear the Word of God *the Celebrant says the following*

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

The people sit

I. The Story of Creation—Based on Genesis 1:1—2:2

In which God calls all creation into being and makes us in the divine image.

The Celebrant prays: 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. **All: Amen.**

II. Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea—Based on Exodus 14:10-15:1

In which the Children of Israel are delivered from the bondage of slavery through the waters of death into newness of life.

The Celebrant prays: 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. **All: Amen.**

III. God Will Give Us A New Heart and a New Spirit—Ezekiel 36:24-28

God breathes new life into his people, restoring them to newness of life.

The Celebrant prays: 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 know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things that 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. **All: Amen.**

(Please extinguish your candles)

AT THE MASS OF THE RESURRECTION – EASTER SALUTATION

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The sounding of a fanfare announces the Resurrection, as the people remain standing, ringing bells and singing:

Gloria in Excelsis *sung by all standing*

by William Matthias

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

The Collect for the Mass of the Resurrection

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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 forever. **All: Amen.**

A reading from a letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

The Great Alleluia *1st time sung by Cantor; thereafter all*

O filii et filiae

Al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu-ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Mark 16: 1-8

All: Glory to You, Lord Christ. When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is

going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon *the People sit*

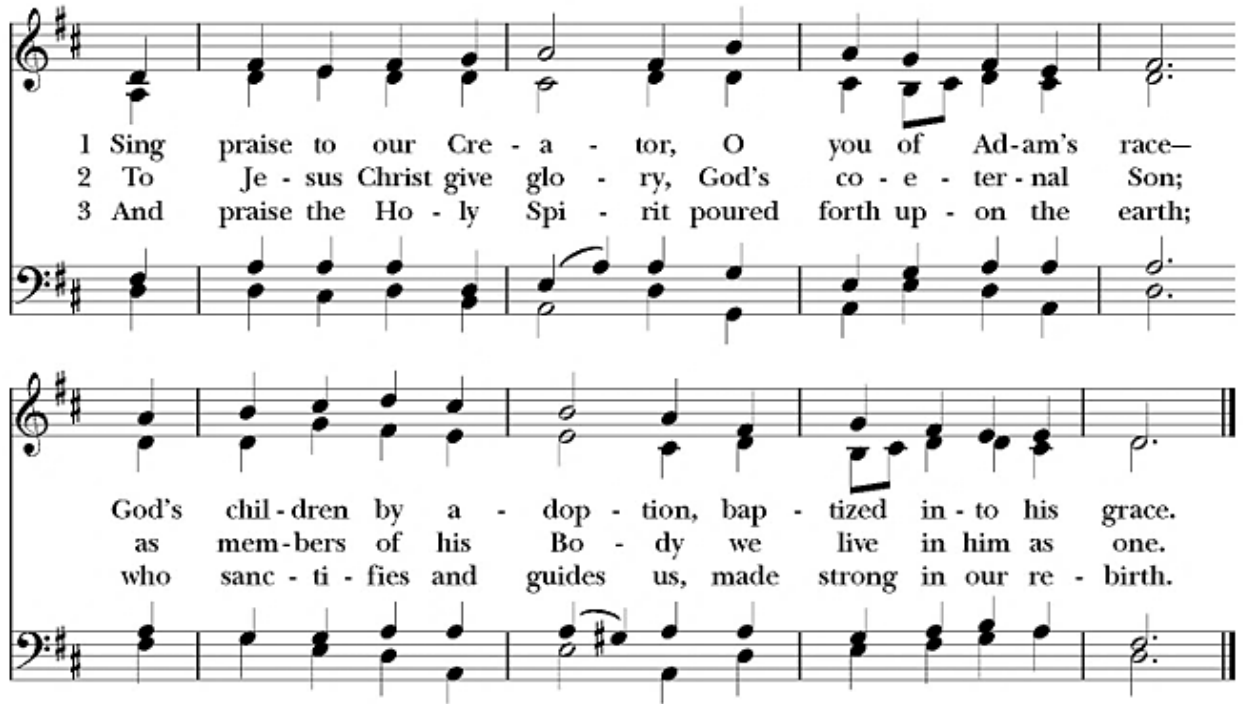
Father Albert Cutie, Rector

THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

The Candidates for baptism with their sponsors, parents, and godparents are led the ministers to the Baptismal Font.

Hymn *sung by all standing as the procession moves to the font*

Christus, der ist mein Leib



1 Sing praise to our Cre - a - tor, O you of Ad - am's race—
2 To Je - sus Christ give glo - ry, God's co - e - ter - nal Son;
3 And praise the Ho - ly Spi - rit poured forth up - on the earth;
God's chil - dren by a - dop - tion, bap - tized in - to his grace.
as mem - bers of his Bo - dy we live in him as one.
who sanc - ti - fies and guides us, made strong in our re - birth.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

Celebrant: The candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Godparents: I present (FIRST NAME) to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Addressing the adult candidate[s], the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Do you desire to be baptized?

Response: I do.

The Baptismal Covenant *the Congregation is invited to join in the Profession of Faith*

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **All: I do.**

Celebrant: Do you 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? **All: I do.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic Church, The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. **All: I do.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers? **All: 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? **All: I will with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

All: I will with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

All: 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? **All:** I will with God's help.

The Baptism

After all have been baptized the Celebrant says to the congregation: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Celebrant now blesses the congregation with Holy Water as a sign of our new birth, through baptism, into the resurrected life of Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, the congregation sings:

Baptismal Song

Wade in the Water

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,

Wade in the wa - ter, God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. **Fine**

The Celebrant concludes saying: May Almighty God, The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **All:** Amen.

The Peace

Please extend a sign of peace according to social distancing guidelines

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Announcements *the People are invited to sit*

Antiphon (at the beginning)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped.

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

2 The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shout of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

3 The three sad days are quickly sped,
he rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head! Alleluia

4 He closed the yawning gates of hell,
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumphs tell!
Alleluia!

5 Lord! by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live and sing to thee.
Alleluia! *To Antiphon*

Doxology *remain standing, sung by all*

Laast uns Erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Amen!

The Great Thanksgiving

The service continues on page 361 of the Book of Common Prayer with the following

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues with the Preface, Sanctus, and Eucharistic Prayer (please kneel as you are able) to which the congregation responds Christ Has Died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again, and sings: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *said by all standing*

Fraction Anthem at the Breaking of the Bread

by Douglas Major (b. 1953)

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
 Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
 Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

The Post Communion Prayer *said by all standing*

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence may raise us to eternal joy. Amen.

Closing Hymn *sung by all*

Salzburg

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2. Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3. Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4. Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

The Easter Blessing and Dismissal *led by the Rector*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through 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. **All: Amen.**

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Organ Voluntary

Final, from Symphony I by Louie Vierne