



# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The Little Church with the Big Heart



## The Great Vigil of Easter



**The Rev. David McElwain Presiding  
March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### **The Lighting of the Paschal Candle:**

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 Paschal Candle is lit)*

Cantor:     The light of Christ.

People:     **Thanks be to God.**

*(The candles which have been distributed to members of the congregation, are lighted at this time. Other candles and lamps in the church, except for those at the Altar, may also be lit. Then the cantor, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet, as follows:)*

**Exsultet:** *(Cantor - Dan Jones)*

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.**

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.**

Presider:

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.

**Exodus 14:10-15:1**

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 so that we can 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. Then 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 on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a 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."

### **Canticle 8: The Song of Moses**

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted;  
**the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.**

The Lord is my strength and my refuge;  
**the Lord has become my Savior.**

This is my God and I will praise him,  
**the God of my people and I will exalt him.**

The Lord is a mighty warrior;  
**Yahweh is his Name.**

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea;  
**the finest of those who bear armor have been  
drowned in the Red Sea.**

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them;  
**they sank into the depths like a stone.**

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might;  
**your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.**

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods?  
**who is like you, glorious in holiness,  
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?**

You stretched forth your right hand;  
**the earth swallowed them up.**

With your constant love you led the people you redeemed;  
**with your might you brought them in safety to  
your holy dwelling.**

You will bring them in and plant them

**on the mount of your possession,**

The resting-place you have made for yourself,

O Lord,

**the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.**

The Lord shall reign

**for ever and for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is  
now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Presider: Let us pray.

*(Silence)*

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.**

### **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

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.

### **Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah**

Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

**And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,  
and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

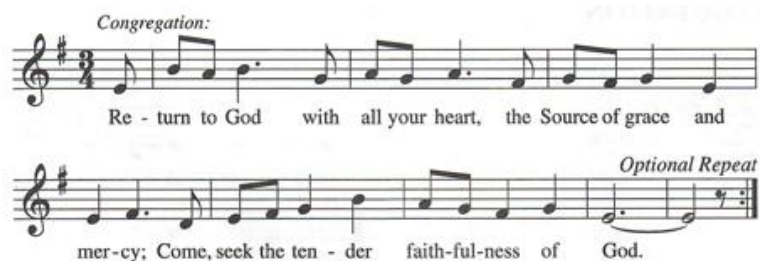
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is  
now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Presider: Let us pray.

*(Silence)*

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.**

**Gradual: Return to God (Haugen)**



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

**Glory to you Lord Christ.**

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

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 worshipped

him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

*(The candles at the Altar may now be lighted.)*

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Canticle 21: You are God** (Te Deum laudamus)

Presider and People together:

**You are God: we praise you;**

**You are the Lord; we acclaim you;**

**You are the eternal Father:**

**All creation worships you.**

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,**

**Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**The glorious company of apostles praise you.**

**The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.**

**The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.**

**Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;**

**Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

**You, Christ, are the king of glory,**

**the eternal Son of the Father.**

**When you became man to set us free**

**you did not shun the Virgin's womb.**

**You overcame the sting of death**

**and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

**You are seated at God's right hand in glory.**

**We believe that you will come and be our judge.**

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting.**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Sermon:** The Rev. David McElwain

**Renewal of Baptismal Vows:**

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.

Presider: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: **I do.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider: 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.**

Presider: 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.**

Presider: 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.**

Presider: 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.**



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

People: **I will, with God's help.**

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

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Presider: 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.**

Presider: 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. **Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People:**

Intercessor: Today we say Alleluia, for what was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us with all confidence bring before God the needs of all our world, asking God for renewal, saying:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of life, in gratitude and great joy we praise you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. On this day give all god's people hope; for Christ is risen indeed, so we pray:

**Lord, hear our Prayer.**

On this feast day which brings joy to all Christians everywhere, may we commit ourselves to work toward the unity of your church, that Christ's body may be one; for Christ is risen, so we pray:

**Lord, hear our Prayer.**

Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those who have needs that they are unable to meet; for Christ is risen, so we pray:

**Lord, hear our Prayer.**

May this community here gathered have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and be surprised by the Joy of meeting our risen savior.

May we run to share God's sign of life in our world; for Christ has risen, so we pray:

**Lord, hear our Prayer.**

For all who have need of the gift of Easter; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; especially: Owen, Hunter, Ron, Jeanne, Ray, Kara, Frank, Miriam, Dianne and her family, Julie, Stephen and his family, that illness and despair may have no more power over them; for Christ is risen, so we pray:

**Lord, hear our Prayer.**

May all who have died in your faith be received at your heavenly banquet and may we be one

in faith will all of them; especially: Mary Albert, Lew Myrick, Robert Fogle, Cherie Roberts, and the Rev. Susan Smith. In baptism we die with Christ to the sure joy of resurrection; for Christ is risen, so

we pray:

**Lord, hear our Prayer.**

**Collect:**

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.**

**Peace:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you.**

*(Please take a moment to offer your neighbors a sign of Christ's peace. This will be followed by some brief Announcements; and then we will offer blessings for any Anniversaries, Birthdays, Surgeries or Travelers)*

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord #178

**Doxology:** The Hymnal 1982 #380 V3

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise Him all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above ye heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the

Gospel and to tell all nations; and promised to be with them always, even to the end of ages. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus: S130**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the

unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.  
**AMEN.**

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:**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*(If you are visiting, and you normally receive communion in your home church, you are welcome to receive at this table as well. If you are not yet baptized, you may come up with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing)*

**Communion:** I Am the Bread of Life #335

**Post Communion Thanksgiving Prayer:** *(Please stand or kneel as you are able)*

Let us pray,

**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.**

**Blessing:**

The Wisdom of God the Love of God and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

**Recessional:** Jesus Christ is Risen Today #207 The Hymnal 1982

**Dismissal:**

Let us go forth, rejoicing in the resurrection of Christ our Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Postlude:** Hallelujah Chorus (GF Handel)

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church Prayer List:**

Kara, Owen, WaWee, Ron, Elaine, Wayne, Bryan, Helen, Cheryl, Susanne, Rick, Jim, Marlys, Chris, Joy, Donna, Paul, Don, and Frank's family.

**Repose of the Soul List:**

Allen Ruff, Joyce Schroeder, Rene Joy, Ann Slaybaugh, Alex Wyman Linda Clark and Frank Hotchkiss

\* If you would like to add any names to the Church Prayer Lists, email: [prayers@stpetersepiscopalcg.org](mailto:prayers@stpetersepiscopalcg.org). Names are kept on the Church Prayer List for 1 month. If you'd like them to stay on the list, simply resubmit them. Names are kept on the Repose of the Soul List for 2 months.

Please visit our website for a listing of our worship times, and all current announcements which are contained in our current newsletter, 3 Peter:

<https://stpetersepiscopalcg.org>

If you are new to St. Peter's and would like to schedule a time to meet w/the Vicar, please reach out to him via email: [shawn.rutledge@stpetersepiscopalcg.org](mailto:shawn.rutledge@stpetersepiscopalcg.org) or by phone: 602-688-2273.

He would love to chat and get to know you; and If at any time you need pastoral care, please call the **Pastoral Care Line:** 520-483-4288

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to the members of your Bishop's Committee.

**Bishop's Committee:**

- The Rev. Shawn Rutledge, Vicar
- Kari Davis, Bishop's Warden
- Dorrie Carskadon, People's Warden
- Kay Horton, Member at Large
- Mitchell Smith, Member at Large
- Susanne Lieber, Member at Large

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### **Acknowledgement of the Land:**

St. Peter's is situated on land that was lived and traveled on by many different tribes including: the Hohokam, the O'odham Jewed, the Sobaipuri, and the Akimel O'odham. We respectfully acknowledge and honor all tribal communities, past and present, for their ongoing and fundamental relationship with this land and this region.

