

Easter Vigil in a Time of Pandemic

April 4, 2020

It is usual for the congregation to celebrate the Easter Vigil as found in the ELW or as in the BAS, the liturgical resource of the ACC. It is a beautiful liturgy that over two or more hours, depending on how many readings of the story of salvation one includes, the four major movements of Light, Word, Affirmation of Baptism/Baptism and Holy Communion are experienced. Normally for us, after the last Alleluia is sung, we would convene in the Church Hall for a continued celebration that includes champagne and hot cross buns. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

These are not 'normal' times. Yet God is still present and we can still mark joyfully the wonder of Jesus' resurrection and the new life it makes possible for us everyday. This liturgy, rooted in the tradition we love, also finds its inspiration in resources and form from the Iona community. We will not be sharing the Meal but will move from darkness to light, be fed by the story of deep hope, affirm our trust in what we know to be true, and then go out rejoicing, telling everyone, 'We have seen the Lord.' We might yearn for more but it will be enough. Thanks be to God! (Note: We can still break out the sparkling libation!).

The Rev. Brenda Nestegaard Paul, pastor/incumbent

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*Song numbers refer to the ELW. Please speak or sing the text in **bold print**. Wherever you are, have a candle beside you with the means to light it come the time.*

GATHERING

Sound of crackling fire.

We gather in dim light.

Silence

Song 353 vs 1

Were you there

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? 2x

Ohhhhhhh. Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Silence

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Light the paschal candle

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

The light of Christ. (*sung*)

Thanks be to God.

While we sing the following, light your candle, that the light of Christ blazes everywhere.

Song 307 vs 1,2

Light shone in darkness

**Light shone in darkness at the world's creation
Bathing in beauty nature's revelation
All that has being, cry in adoration,
"Praise for the light. Amen."**

**Light shone in darkness at the new creation
Christ rose in glory, won for us salvation.
Sing, earth and heaven, hymns of jubilation
Praise for the light. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of new creation, from the womb of earth you raised the Lord of life:

**May we receive the word of women
who braved the soldier's spears
And met him in the dawning light;
May we live with morning joy that will never die,
Through Jesus the Christ, the resurrection and the life. Amen.**

WORD

We reflect on the story of this past week from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. After each day's reflection through Maundy Thursday, we will sing the following:

**Song Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ
 Son of God among us
 Thank you for every sign
 Showing that you love us.**

Sunday Matt 21:1-11; Monday Jn 12:1-11; Tuesday Jn 12:20-36; Wednesday Jn 13:21-32; Thursday Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35

Following Good Friday's story (Jn 18:1 – 19:42) we will sing:

Song 353 vs 5

Were you there

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? 2x
Oh..... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

Bells rung, take cloth off cross or picture, lights are on.

Gospel Words

Song 174 **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**
Reflection ** based on Matt 28:9-15a*
Song 174 **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Gathered into one across time and space by the waters of our baptism,
we affirm our faith with these words:

We believe in the God of Life
The world maker, the starlighter,
The sun shiner, the beauty maker;
Provoking evolution from nothing but words of love.
We believe in Life.

We believe in the risen Jesus,
The cross bearer, the tomb raider.
The hell-harrower, the death defier;
Embracing resurrection as the first-born from death.
We believe in life.

We believe in the Easter Spirit,
The life-giver, the breath bringer,
The body lover, the church birther,
Enabling communion with Jesus the Living One.
We believe in life.

We believe in the God of life,
World-maker, cross bearer, life-giver
Trinity of hope leading creation to its liberation.
We believe in God.

Song 741

Your will be done

Your will be done on earth, O Lord. 5x

Prayers of the People
Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one, we pray.
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Song 741

Your will be done

Your will be done on earth, O Lord. 5x

SENDING

Sending Words

Peace

The peace of the Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Song 869

We have seen the Lord

We have seen the Lord.

We have seen the Lord.

We have seen the Lord, God with us Jesus Christ.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Acknowledgements:

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Hymns and Songs: *Were you there; Light Shone in Darkness; Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ; Your will be done; We have seen the Lord* used with permission under ONELICENSE A732358