

The Great Vigil of Easter

(Missal Edition)

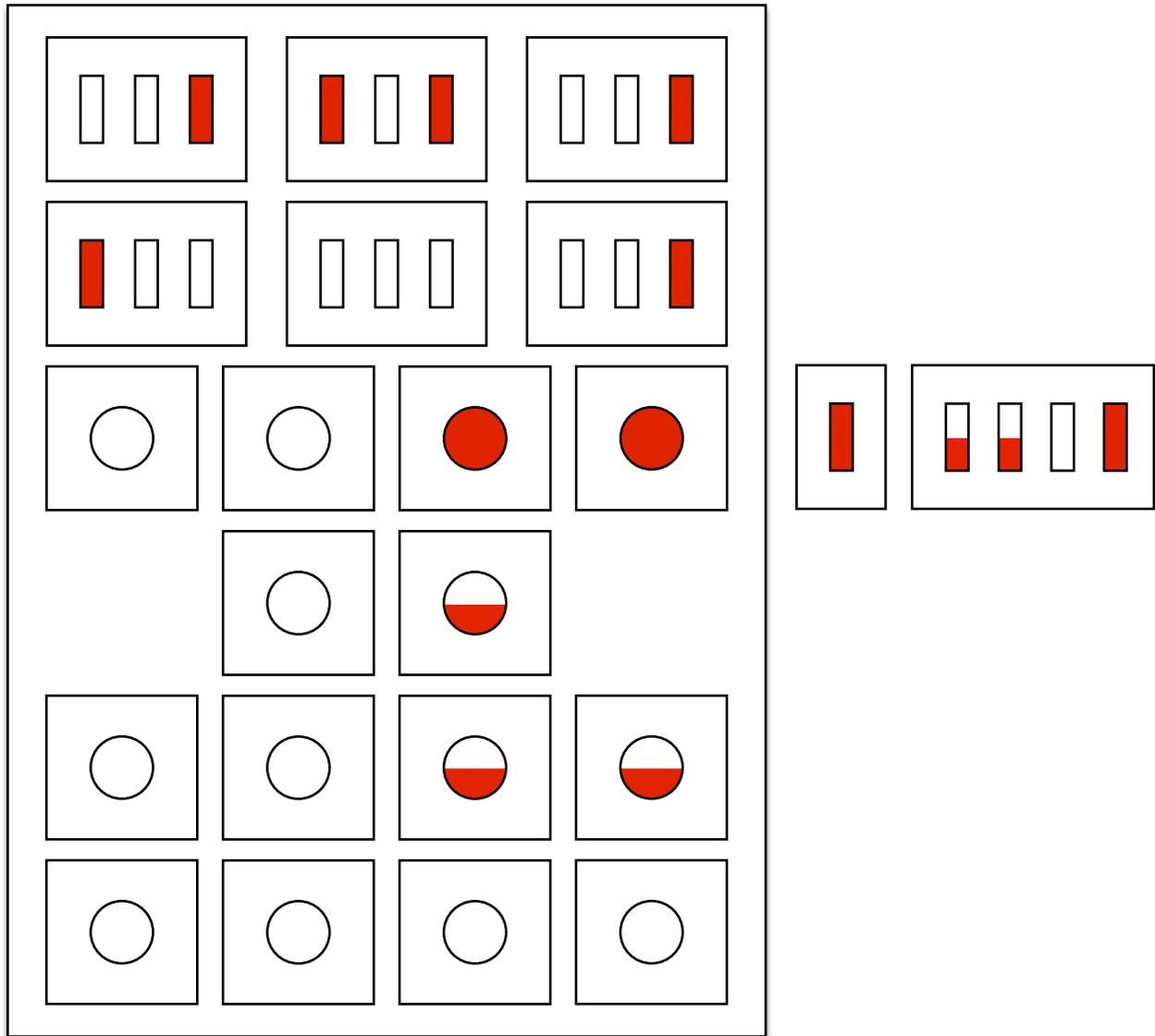
Roles to Assign

- *2 Master of Ceremonies*
- *Vigil Readers (typically chosen by the Rector; number depends on the stories being used this year)*
- *2 Eucharistic Ministers*
- *Ushers and Greeters*
- *Minister of Music, Organist & Brass*
- *Sound Technician*
- *2-3 volunteers to build the baptistery on Saturday*
- *2-3 volunteers to oversee filling the baptistery on Sunday morning*

MCs

- **Roles:**
 - *MC 1 will assist the primary Celebrant, especially at:*
 - *Lighting of the Fire*
 - *Singing of the Exsultet*
 - *Baptisms*
 - *MC 2 will assist the secondary Celebrant and will also:*
 - *Remain inside at Baptism to turn on lights, light candles, etc.*
 - *Assist at the Liturgy of the Table*
- **Books:**
 - **Missal:** *This service booklet is used in a binder instead of the Missal. 7 copies are available:*
 - *2 for MCs*
 - *2 for Clergy (or more, depending on number of clergy)*
 - *1 for Minister of Music*
 - *1 for Organist*
 - *1 for Acolyte Master*
 - **Brass Gospel Book:** *Mark the Gospel for **Matthew, Mark or Luke** according to the current year. (The 10:00 a.m. service will use the John reading.)*
 - **Readings:** *Readings for the Vigil Readers will be in binders and should be on the lectern and on the music stand near the marble font.*
- **Vestments:**
 - *The Celebrant will wear alb, gold stole, gold cope, and biretta.*
 - *Gold chasuble over the Communion rail (unless another clergy person is celebrating at the liturgy of the Table)*
 - *MCs wear typical black cassock with white chimere*

- **Lighting:**
 - *The Sanctuary is intentionally dim at the beginning of the service.*
 - *The following diagram shows what lights should be on:*



Acolyte Masters

- *A full brigade of Acolytes is required.*
- **Assemble beforehand:**
 - **Banner:** *If the church banner was deconstructed and stored during Lent or Holy Week, reconstruct it and have it ready to put out at the redressing of the Altar. It may be processed out, but not in.*
 - **Ribbons:** *Assemble the gold and white ribbons. They may be processed out, but not in.*
- **Vestments:** *Vest as usual.*
- **Incense:** *Thurifer should use pure Ethiopian frankincense. No other “flavors” added.*
- **Procession In:** *As usual, but torches are **not** lit.*

- **Lighting of the Candles:** *Acolyte Masters and torches will assist with lighting the congregation's vigil candles after the Paschal Candle is lit and put in its stand.*
- **Baptismal Procession:**
 - *Acolytes should process out with thurible, crosses, torches, etc. and stand in formation in front of the closed red doors.*
 - *Keep clouds of incense going outside throughout entire baptismal rite.*
 - *One Acolyte Master remains inside to light candles and assist MC2.*
- **After Baptisms:** *After the Proclamation of Easter, acolytes return to their places in the Sanctuary—while the Altar is redressed by the clergy—and prepare for the Gospel procession.*
- **After the Peace:** *It is a typical Communion, but **no healing**.*

Altar Guild

- *See “Interior Setup” below.*
- **Altar:**
 - Nothing on the Altar, except:
 - *1 long-handled taper/snuffer with a fresh wick*
 - *5 kitchen matches with a striking surface*
 - *2 wooden tapers*
 - *In the sacristy for redressing of the Altar:*
 - *Gold frontal*
 - *Fair linen*
 - *Brass candlesticks*
 - *Gold pillow*
 - *Brass Gospel book*
- **Vestments:**
 - *In the clergy vesting room: Celebrant's alb, gold stole, gold cope, and biretta.*
 - *Gold chasuble over the Communion rail (unless another clergy person is celebrating at the liturgy of the Table)*
- **Communion Necessities:**
 - *Typical Sunday setup on the Credence Table and Oblation Table.*
 - *Include the little ciborium on the Credence Table.*
- **Veils:**
 - *The icon and processional crosses be veiled in black.*
 - *The crucifix above the Altar in the side chapel does not need to be veiled.*
- **Candles:**
 - *A sufficient number of vigil candles should be assembled in holders and placed in baskets in the narthex.*
 - *The new Paschal Candle stand is placed (empty) by the lectern.*
 - *The old Paschal Candle stand is placed (empty) at the outdoor baptistery.*
 - *The Paschal Candle is placed in the clergy vesting room.*
 - *A full array of brass candlesticks are placed on the ledge (typically by the florist).*
 - *The Sanctuary Light and Icon Light are both in place, unlit.*
- **Side Chapel:**

- *Redress the altar in the side chapel ahead of time.*
- *The Tabernacle stays open and empty until the MC fills it at the end of the service.*
- *Unveil anything in the side chapel that was veiled in black for Good Friday.*
- **Narthex:**
 - *Vigil candles, assembled and in baskets*
 - *One of the long tables, equipped with:*
 - *Jingly sanctus bells, placed on a cushion*
 - *The Chrism jar*
 - *Pewter pitcher filled with water*
 - *A fresh dogwood branch (or any other kind) for asperging*
 - *A sufficient number of towels for those being baptized*

Musicians

- *Minister of Music, Organist, brass, and various members of the choir are needed.*
- **Vestments:** *Wear the red scapular.*
- **Lighting:** *Lighting is very dim for the first third of the service. Musicians may have discreet lights on their stands or binders, preferably of a warm yellow tint, not a cold blue tint.*
- *No prelude.*
- *The organ sub-bass and zimblestern are used during the Exsultet and the Baptismal procession on a note chosen in consultation with the Celebrant or cantor.*

Staff

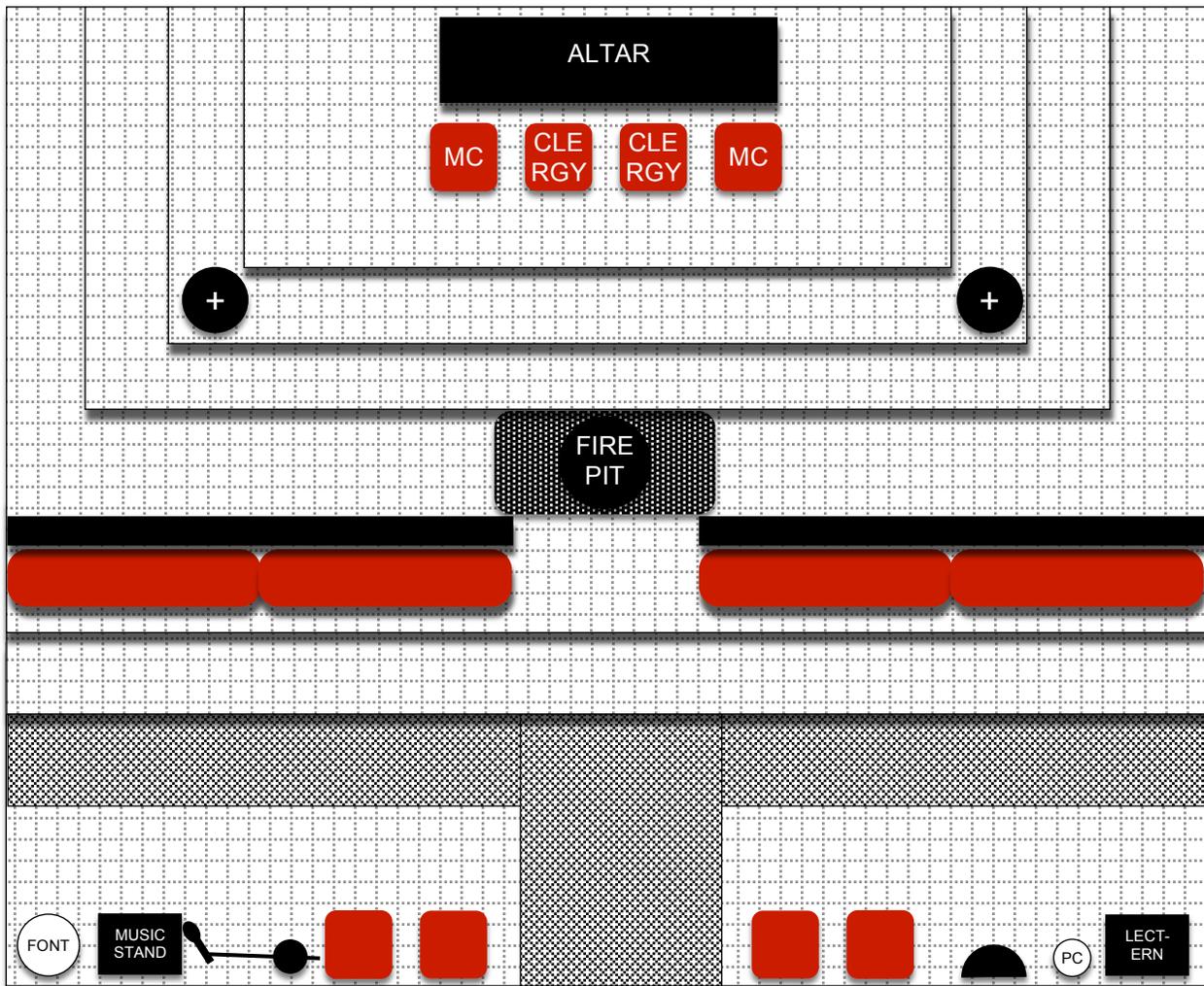
- **Binders:**
 - *7 copies of this book*

Ushers

- *Be prepared to assist the baptistery volunteers with filling the baptistery.*
- *At the baptismal procession, open all doors at the rear of the sanctuary; encourage folks to use all three exits.*
- *Close the red doors once everyone is outside.*
- *All other duties as usual.*

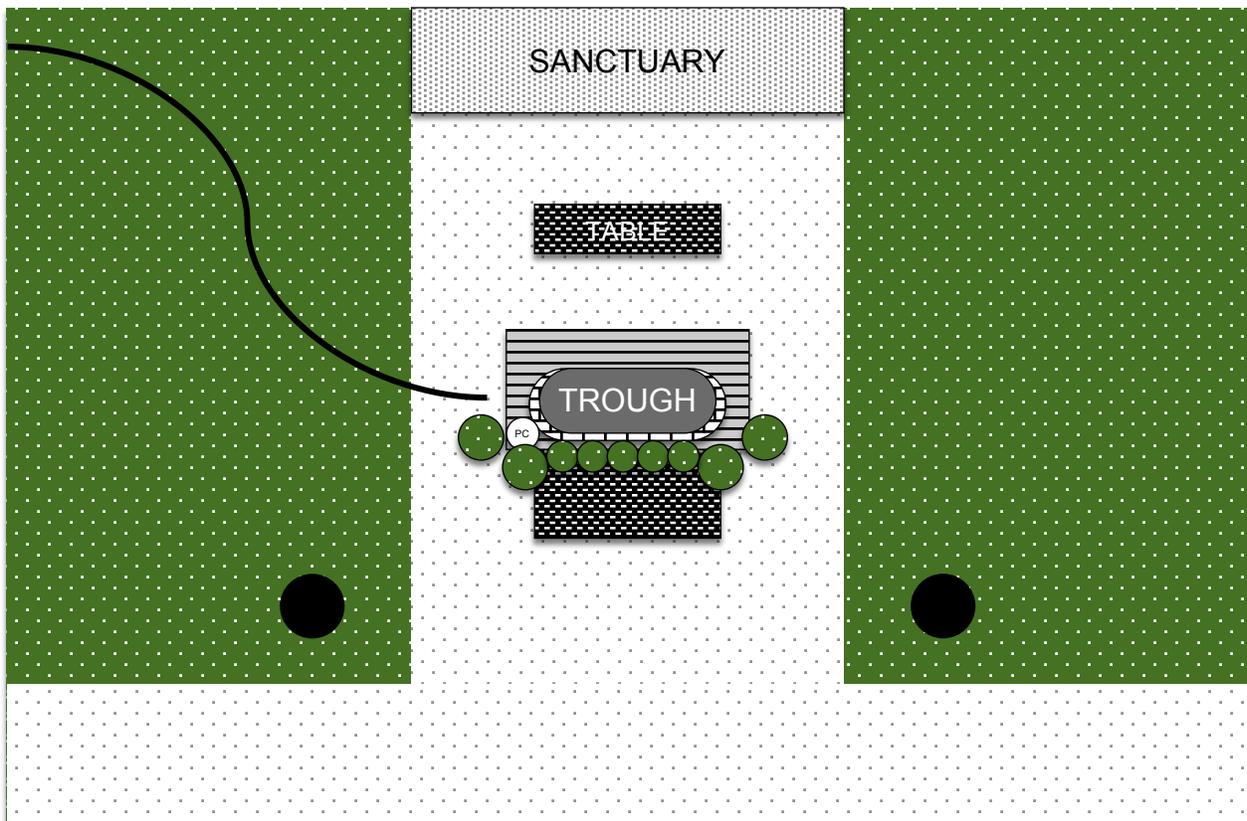
Interior Setup

- **On the Altar:**
 - 1 long-handled taper/snuffer with a fresh wick
 - 5 kitchen matches with a striking surface
 - 2 wooden tapers
- **Four chairs** in front of the Altar
- **Vigil candles** placed in MC, clergy, and choir seats; EMs and others as needed
- **Both processional crosses** veiled in black (will be processed in)
- **Fire pit** placed on fire-proof grill mat at opening in rail
 - **Aluminum pans** containing rock salt soaked in rubbing alcohol placed inside the fire pit
- **Fire extinguishers** and a **bucket of sand** placed discreetly behind the Altar
- **Music stand** with **microphone** placed near the marble baptismal font
- **Paschal Candle stand** placed next to the lectern
 - **Paschal Candle** placed in clergy vesting room (will be processed, unlit)
 - **Two wooden tapers** on table next to lectern



Exterior Setup

- **For the Baptistry**
 - Wooden platform
 - Aluminum trough
 - Pavers set around the front and sides of the trough
 - (All of the above are stored outside on the southwest side of the Sanctuary.)
 - The old Paschal Candle stand (empty)
 - Blue oriental rug (stored in the Altar Guild closet)
 - Sufficient lilies, plants, etc. to decorate the front of the trough
 - A length of hose run from the kitchen water heater to the baptistry
- **On the long narthex table, placed behind the baptistry**
 - Jingly sanctus bells, placed on a cushion
 - The Chrism jar
 - Pewter pitcher filled with water
 - A fresh dogwood branch (or any other kind) for asperging
 - A sufficient number of towels for those being baptized
- **Exterior amplifier for Celebrant's microphone**



The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

- *Acolytes process as usual. Torches are not lit. Incense is used. No banner or ribbons.*
- *ELLEN carries the Pascal Candle*
- *LONNIE LIGHTS the FIRE*
- *LONNIE addresses the people in these words*

Dear friends in Christ:

On this most holy night,
in which our Lord Jesus Christ
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.

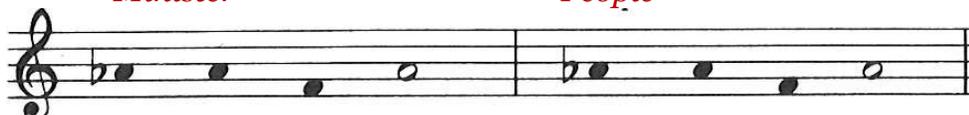
Tonight we join our voices
with those of faithful Christians
across the span of ages.
With our mothers and fathers,
our sisters and brothers,
the holy forebears of our ancient faith,
we gather in the darkness
to light the new Paschal fire,
to recount God's saving deeds,
to pass through the waters of baptism,
and to share with all creation
in the triumph of our mighty King.
This is . . . the Great Vigil of Easter.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, ruler of the ages,
through your only-begotten Son
you have bestowed upon your people
the brightness of your eternal 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.

- *LONNIE LIGHTS the PASCHAL CANDLE held by ELLEN.*
- *LONNIE LIGHTS his VIGIL CANDLE off the PASCHAL CANDLE.*
- *Accompanied by MC2, ELLEN then PROCESSES the CANDLE, as ELLEN sings THREE TIMES*

Minister *People*



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

ACOLYTES: Begin lighting the congregation's candles, using fire from the Paschal candle.

- *ELLEN returns to ALTAR*

The Exsultet

ORGAN: Begin drone on low E.
Turn zimbelstern ON.

• *LONNIE begins the Exsultet*

Re - joi - ce now, heav' n - ly hosts and choirs of an - gels,
and let your trum - pets shout Sal - va - tion
for the vic - to - ry of our migh - ty King.
Re - joi - ce and sing now, all the round earth,
bright with a glo - ri - ous splen - dor,
for dark - ness has been van - quish' d by our e - ter - nal King.
Re - joi - ce and be glad now, Mo - ther Church,



and let your ho - ly courts in ra - dant light



re - sound with the prais - es of your peo - ple.



[All you who stand near this mar - ve - lous and ho - ly flame,



pray with me to God the Al - migh - ty



for the grace to sing the wor - thy praise of this great light;



through Je - sus Christ his Son our Lord,



who lives and reigns with him,



in the u - ni - ty of the Ho - ly Spi - rit, one God,

for he is the true Pas - chal Lamb, who at the feast of the Pass - o - ver
paid for us the debt of A - dam's sin,
and by his blood de - liv - er'd your faith - ful peo - ple.
This is the night, when you brought our fa - thers,
the chil - dren of Is - ra - el, out of bon - dage in E - gypt,
and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.
This is the night, when all who be - lieve in Christ
are de - liv - er'd from the gloom of sin,
and are re - stor'd to grace and ho - li - ness of life.
This is the night,
when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell,
and rose vic - to - rious from the grave.

[How won - der - ful and be - yond our know - ing, O God, is your
 mer - cy and lov - ing - kind - ness to us, that to re - deem a slave,
 you gave a Son. How ho - ly is this night, when wick - ed -
 ness is put to flight, and sin is wash'd a - way. It re - stores in -
 no - cence to the fall - en, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out
 pride and ha - tred, and brings peace and con - cord. How bless - ed
 is this night, when earth and hea - ven are joined and man
 is re - con - cil'd to God.

Ho - ly Fa - ther, ac - cept our ev - 'ning sac - ri - fice,
 the of - fer - ing of this can - dle in your ho - nor.
 May it shine con - tin - ual - ly to drive a - way all dark - ness.

May Christ, the Morn - ing Star who knows no set - ting,
 find it ev - er burn - ing —
 he who gives his light to all cre - a - tion,
 and who lives and reigns for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

ORGAN: Turn zimbelstern OFF,
 and release drone.

The Liturgy of the Word

ELLEN

Brothers and sisters,
 it was the custom of the early Church
 to gather in the darkness of homes, caves, and catacombs
 before the dawn of Easter's first light,
 and to recount the ancient stories of God's saving deeds.
 On this night when Jesus the Son of God lay in the grave,
 we recall that God has never abandoned his faithful people.
 With open ears and grateful hearts,
 let us hear anew the record of God's power in history,
 how he saved his people in ages past;
 and let us pray that we also will be brought
 to the fullness of redemption in our own day.
 Please be seated.

The Story of Creation [Genesis 1:1—2:2]

ART LAWTON leads the story of Creation.

Reader In the beginning, on the first day, God created the heavens and the earth. God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that it was good.

People Blessed be the God of radiance and warmth,
of energy and hope;
Blessed be the God of light.

Reader In the beginning, on the second day, God created a dome to separate the waters from the waters. God called the dome “sky” and saw that it was good.

People Blessed be the God of rain and rivers, of water and air;
Blessed be the God of the ocean and sky.

Reader In the beginning, on the third day, God gathered the waters together and caused dry land to appear. God spoke, and the fertile earth brought forth every shade of green and every radiant blossom in all their vibrant colors, and God saw that it was good.

People Blessed be the God of the flowers in their splendor,
the trees in their majesty and strength;
Blessed be the God of the green-brown earth.

Reader In the beginning, on the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and the stars, to separate day from night, to mark the seasons. And God saw that it was good.

People Blessed be the God of signs and of seasons, of night and day;
Blessed be the God of the heavens and of time.

Reader In the beginning, on the fifth day, God created all the living creatures of sea and sky, and blessed them, and called them good.

People Blessed be the God of swimming and scales,
of feathers and flight;
Blessed be the God of the creatures of sea and sky.

Reader In the beginning, on the sixth day, God created the animals of the earth, and made humankind in the image of God, and God saw that it was was very good.

People Blessed be the God of flesh and bone, of souls that live and love;
Blessed be the God of the animals and of all humankind.

Reader In the beginning, on the seventh day, God created rest, and entered into a rest from all the work that had been done. And God saw that rest was very, very good, indeed.

People Blessed be the God of renewal and peace, of leisure and play;
Blessed be the God of holy sabbath rest.

Reader Blessed be God, O you people! Blessed be God!

People Blessed be God, the King of all the ages!
Blessed be God! . . . now, and evermore. Amen.

ALL stand.

Responsive Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy Name,
in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

ELLEN

Let us pray. **(Silence)**

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 Flood [Genesis 7:1-5,11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13]

JAY LACY, MARY GRACE LACY & TYLER RIDDLE lead the story of the Flood.

Narrator Long, long ago, the earth was covered with a great multitude, a vast population. But the heart of God was broken, for the Lord our God had looked into the hearts of all people and saw that they were wicked, every one. The sons of Adam, the daughters of Eve: all had lost their way. All had squandered and forsaken the love for which they had been created.

But one man was righteous; one man alone stood blameless in his generation. That man's name was Noah. And so, it came to pass that the Lord looked down and spoke unto Noah. In a voice as deep as the ocean, as mighty as the wind, the Lord our God called out to Noah and said:

God Noah! Build me an ark!

Noah O Lord my God, I walk humbly before you and obey your every command. I will do this great deed you ask. But first, uh . . . what's an ark?

God It's a boat, Noah. A HUGE boat. It's about thiiiiiiis long . . . and about thiiiiiiis wide . . . and about thiiiiiiis tall. When you're finished, I want you to get on the ark with your whole family. You are all going for a long ride.

Noah Oh, a cruise? That's great! My wife has always wanted to go on a cruise.

Narrator And the Lord God said,

God Well . . . not exactly.

Narrator So the Lord God explained to Noah that a great rain would soon come upon the earth to devour it, and that on this particular boat there would be no time for sunbathing, or buffets, or moonlit dancing on the promenade. And so Noah said unto the Lord God:

Noah Oh.

Narrator Then the Lord continued,

God One more thing, Noah.

You're going to have to bring some animals with you, too.

Noah Oh, I love animals! Like puppies and hamsters and cute little kittens?

Narrator And the Lord God said,

God Well . . . not exactly.

Narrator The Lord God explained that on this ark, Noah must bring a *he* kind and a *she* kind of every living creature. A *he* kind and a *she* kind of every animal, every bird, every reptile, mosquito, and tick. Even the gnats would have a place. And again Noah said unto the Lord God:

Noah Oh.

Narrator Now, all this happened when Noah was about six hundred years old, which just goes to show you that no matter who you are, God may find you and ask you to do something brave. So Noah built the ark, gathered the animals, and climbed aboard the great ship he had made. And it was just as God's hand slammed the door shut that Noah pondered unto himself,

Noah Oh my, *what* have I gotten myself into?

Narrator The rain began, soft at first, then louder and louder. The thunder rolled; the lightening flashed. The ark rocked and pitched and rolled, and everyone and *everything* great and small was very afraid.

For forty days and forty nights, the rain fell. Then, quite unexpectedly, it began to let up, until finally it stopped altogether. All was quiet. All was still.

Noah I will send out a dove,

Narrator said, Noah. But after flying hither and yon, the dove returned to him, for the waters still covered the face of the earth. Seven days later, Noah sent her out again. This time she returned, a fresh, green olive leaf firm in her beak. Seven days later, Noah sent her out again, and she did not return, for she had found a new home on the dry land.

And so, finally, Noah and his wife, their children and grandchildren, all the animals, the birds, the reptiles, the mosquitos, the ticks, and the gnats all stretched and slithered and groaned their way out of the ark into the brightness of day. As Noah walked, the fresh mud squished between his toes
...

Noah . . . and there before my eyes in the bright morning sun, I saw a thousand rainbows blazing across the sky, and the Lord my God said:

God Never again, Noah. Never again. This is my promise to you and to all people. Whenever you see the rainbow in the sky, remember: Never again will I destroy the earth. From now until forever I will keep you close to my heart. My love will keep you safe. This is my promise to you and to all generations, forevermore.

Narrator And Noah breathed the cool, rich air, the sun warm on his face . . . and he began life anew.

All Amen.

Responsive Hymn.....A Mighty Fortress

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us:
the Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Him Who with us sideth:
Let good and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
his kingdom is forever.

ELLEN

Let us pray. **(Silence)**

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea [Exodus 14:10–15:1]

The people join the appointed readers in the following Responsive reading.

Reader 1 Why is this night different from all other nights?

People **This is the Passover of the Lord,
when God led us out of slavery in Egypt,
through the Red Sea, onto dry ground.
We remember . . .**

Reader 2 how we were slaves for four hundred years in Egypt, where we were treated harshly.

People **We cried out to the Lord!
He heard us
and sent our Father Moses to deliver us.**

Reader 1 God said to Moses, “Tell old Pharaoh . . .

People **to let my people go!”**

Moses But who was I to go? I did not know how to speak to Pharaoh, nor how to prove that God had sent me. When Pharaoh would not listen, God sent plagues upon the Egyptians. There were frogs, and lice, and flies.

People **There were boils, and hailstorms, and locusts. There was a thick darkness, heavy as a shroud.**

Reader 2 Then the worst and most rending plague of all, the death of every firstborn in all the land of Egypt.

Moses God said to me, “Instruct my people to eat their last meal in Egypt. Tell them to take one lamb for every family and roast it. Tell them to eat it in haste.”

People **We ate it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, with our sandals on our feet and our walking sticks in our hands. We remember . . .**

Reader 1 how we raised the blood of the lamb and smeared it on our doorposts, so the angel of death would pass over our homes.

Reader 2 And then we rose up and left the land of our oppression. We left so quickly . . .

People **our dough was still rising,
our kneading bowls were
wrapped on our shoulders,
our sleeping children were nestled
in our arms.
We remember . . .**

Reader 1 how happy we were, until we came to the shores of
the sea. And then, like frightened children, we
forgot that it was the Lord our God who brought us
this far, and we began to weep, and wail, and
whine. We said . . .

People **O Moses, were there no graves in Egypt
that you brought us out here to die?
We should never have left.
How much better to live as slaves
than to die in freedom!**

Moses A great fear fell over the people, so strong that they
longed for slavery once again. But God said:

Reader 2 “Moses! Tell my people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand
firm, for the Egyptians you see today, you will
never see again. The Lord will fight for you. You
have only to stand firm!’”

Reader 1 “Lift up your staff, Moses. Stretch out your hand
over the sea and divide it. The Israelites shall pass
on firm, dry ground.”

People **The Lord drove back the sea
with a strong east wind that blew all night,
and turned the sea to dry land.
We remember . . .**

Moses how the pillar of cloud went before us and behind
us, and when Pharaoh's army came after us, the
Lord looked down and threw them into panic. God
said:

Reader 2 "Moses, stretch out your hand again so the waters
of the sea may return to their place."

Moses Thus I did, and the Pharaoh's army was drowned
in the sea.

People **Then we feared the Lord, and believed in
his servant Moses.**

Moses And when we arrived safely on the shore, our
mothers danced and our sisters sang all through
the night . . .

People **because God delivered us from the bondage
of slavery and led us through the sea on dry
foot. The Lord brought us home to the land
of promise.**

Readers This is the Passover of the Lord . . .

People **and we remember! We remember!
We remember! Amen.**

After the reading, all stand.

Responsive Hymn ... Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim though this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer.
be thou still my Strength and Shield,
be thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
bear me through the swelling current,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

ELLEN

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.*

Jonah & the Great Fish [Jonah 1-4]

RICKY DAY & ERICA DAY read the story of the Jonah & the Great Fish.

Narrator One day the Lord decided to inform the residents of Nineveh that the foul stench of their sin had finally reached up to heaven. God was fed up! So he looked and looked for a prophet who could preach repentance to the Ninevites.

Finally, he settled on . . . “JONAH!”

Jonah WHAT, Lord?! WHAT?! Whadaya want?!

Narrator “JONAH! You must go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it,” said the Lord,

“for their wickedness has come before me! Tell them they have *forty days* to shape up, or I shall wipe their men, women, children, chickens, chipmunks, kittens, camels, cattle, and caribou from the face of the earth!”

But Jonah’s reply was swift and unwavering:

Jonah UH-UH. Nooooooooo way, God! You are asking the wroooong prophet! *Somebody* can go to Nineveh, but it AIN’T gonna be ME!!

Narrator So Jonah ran to the nearest seaport, looked for the fastest boat he could find, and said,

Jonah One first class stateroom for the S.S. Minnow, please! Get me to Tarshish, and FAST!

Narrator Now Tarshish was about a million miles away: as far as you can get from Nineveh *and* from God . . . or so Jonah *thought*.

Jonah Heh heh heh! See ya later, Lord! It’s nothing but sun, sand, and mai-tais for me from now on!

Narrator After a lazy stroll in his Speedo around the Lido deck of the S.S. Minnow, Jonah settled into his stateroom for a nice long nap. He fell into a deep and dreamless slumber, but alas, it did not last long! Shortly after Jonah fell asleep, the S.S. Minnow found itself in a raging tempest.

♪ The weather started getting rough,
♪ the tiny ship was tossed.
♪ The crew cried out to their own gods,
♪ or the Minnow would be lost,
♪ the Minnow would be lost!

The Captain shook Jonah awake and said, “WHO ARE YOU?! WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?! WHY ARE YOU NOT TERRIFIED OUT OF YOUR MIND?!”

Jonah replied:

Jonah I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord God Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth. It is because of ME that this great storm has come upon you! I am trying to get far away from Nineveh *and* the Lord. Pick me up and throw me into the sea; for I know it is because of *me* that this awful storm has come upon you.

Narrator The crew begged that Jonah’s God would *not* hold them accountable for his life, and they tossed him into the ocean. Immediately, the sea stopped its raging.

As Jonah floated on the now peaceful waves, he watched the boat sail away. The crew danced and sang songs to the Lord, praising Jonah’s God for

sparing their lives. Even in his defiance, Jonah had drawn these men to the knowledge of the one true God. Stranded now in the sea, Jonah chuckled.

Jonah Heh heh. Joke's on you, God! At least I'm still not in Nineveh!

Narrator But all of a sudden, Jonah noticed he was no longer alone. He looked to his right and saw the great, shiny eyeball of a massive fish floating right next to him. The eyeball was bright white on the outside with a deep, dark center. Jonah stared at the eye, and the eye stared back. It blinked twice, then slipped back into the water.

Then, before Jonah knew it, the mouth of the great fish opened up beneath him, and in one swift slurp, Jonah was swallowed whole! He slipped and sloshed around the mouth and into the belly of that great fish. In all that fishy, icky darkness, Jonah found himself utterly alone and afraid.

Jonah UUUGH! GROSS! What have you been EATING? Funyuns and tuna fish?

Narrator The first night was terrible. Jonah sat in the fish's belly full of rage and despair. He was angry at God *and* himself.

On the second night, Jonah decided to name the

fish “Harold” and attempted to have a conversation with him.

Jonah You know, Harold, *I* should have been like *you!* *I* should have followed instructions, and everything would have worked out fine. One day God says, “Hey Harold! I need you to go swallow some guy next Tuesday and let him tread water in your belly for a bit.” And what do you do, Harold? You *do* it!

But noooooooooo! Unlike you, *I* just couldn't *do as I was told*, could I, Harold? I just *had* to run away!

Narrator But on the third night, Jonah had a great change of heart and spoke directly to God.

Jonah O Lord, you cast me into the depths,
in the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounds me.
All your strong waves and rushing water
passed over me.
So I said, ‘I have been driven away
from your sight.’
Will I ever again look on your holy temple?
Waters have grasped me to the point of death;
the deep surrounds me.
Seaweed is wrapped around my head
at the base of the undersea mountains.
I have sunk down to the underworld;
its bars held me with no end in sight.

But you brought me out of the pit.
When my endurance was weakening,
I remembered the LORD,
and my prayer came to you,
to your holy temple.
Those deceived by worthless things
lose their chance for mercy.
But me, I will offer a sacrifice to you
with a voice of thanksgiving.
That which I have promised, I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the LORD!

Narrator At that very moment, the great fish *BELCHED* Jonah out onto the shore of Nineveh. After thanking God for sparing his life, Jonah said:

Jonah Bye Harold! (*waving fiercely*)

Narrator Once again, God instructed Jonah to go and preach repentance to the people of Nineveh. He did exactly that, saying:

Jonah Listen up, y'all!

I've come to tell you that you need to get right with God, or else he's gonna smite your men, women, children, chickens, chipmunks, kittens, camels, cattle, and caribou!

Narrator Miraculously, the people of Nineveh heard what Jonah had to say. They put on sackcloth, turned

from their wicked ways, and believed in the Lord Almighty: the God of Jonah, the God of Harold, and the God of all the whole earth.

Both Amen.

After the reading, all stand.

Responsive HymnHow Wondrous and Great

How wondrous and great
thy works, God of praise!
How just, King of saints,
and true are thy ways!
O who shall not fear thee,
and honor thy Name?
Thou only art holy,
thou only supreme.

To nations of earth
thy light shall be shown;
their worship and vows
shall come to thy throne:
thy truth and thy judgments
shall spread all abroad,
till earth's every people
confess thee their God.

ELLEN

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Holy Baptism

The Procession to the Baptismal Waters

LONNIE

Dear people of God,
as we prepare to end our Lenten observance,
let us now greet the first light of Easter,
renewing the solemn vows of our Baptism
and baptizing those who have come on this day
to join the family of God.
Please process outside
and gather around the baptistery.

ORGAN: Begin drone on low E.

Unless raining, the entire Congregation processes outside to the baptistery, all singing

Paths in - ter - twin - ing, shad - ow and light;
all is touched by grace; be not a - fraid.

ELLEN: Bring Paschal candle.

IF SUNNY:

ACOLYTES:

Process outside and stand behind baptistery, in formation.

Lots of incense. Keep it loaded & smoking throughout the baptism!

MCs:

One MC accompanies the Celebrant to the baptistery.

One MC remains inside to
**TURN ON ALL LIGHTS &
LIGHT ALL CANDLES.**

IF RAINING:

ACOLYTES:

Acolytes remain where they are. No procession. No incense.

MCs:

One MC accompanies the Celebrant to the font.

One MC remains near the light switches to raise them at the Proclamation of Easter.

The Presentation

When all are in place, LONNIE says

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsors I present Katie to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant Katie, do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Godparents I present Verity to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant Will you be responsible for seeing that Verity is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Godparents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Godparents I will, with God's help.

Then LONNIE asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

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

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

LONNIE addresses the congregation, saying

To the congregation: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Katie and Verity in their life in Christ?

People We will.

LONNIE continues, saying

Turning to page 14 in your service book, let us join with Katie, Verity, and all who are committing themselves to Christ on this day and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Lonnie Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Lonnie 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.

Lonnie 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.

Lonnie 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.

Lonnie 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.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

Lonnie 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.

Prayers for the Candidate

Lonnie then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for Verity and Katie, who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

ELLEN leads the following petitions

Ellen Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Ellen Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Ellen Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Ellen Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Ellen Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Ellen Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Ellen Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Lonnie says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

ELLEN POURS WATER into the baptistery or font.

LONNIE then blesses the water, first singing

The musical score is written on a single staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are as follows:

The Lord be with you.

People And al - so with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of wa - ter. Ov - er it the Holy Spirit
mov'd in the beginning of cre - a - tion. Through it you led the children of
Israel out of their bon - dage in E - gypt in - to the land of pro - mise.
In it your Son Jesus receiv'd the Bap - tism of John and was anointed by the
Holy Spirit as the Mes - si - ah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death
and re - sur - rec - tion, from the bon - dage of sin in - to ev - er - last - ing life.

We thank you, Fa - ther, for the wa - ter of Bap - tism. In it we are buried
 with Christ in his death. By it we share in his re - sur - rec - tion.
 Through it we are reborn by the Ho - ly Spi - rit. There - fore in joyful
 obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come
 to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
 and of the Ho - ly Spi - rit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

* Now sanctify this wa - ter, we pray you, by the power of your Ho - ly Spi - rit, *
 that those who here are cleansed from sin and born a - gain may continue for
 ev - er in the ris - en life of Je - sus Christ our Sa - vior.
 To him, to you, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, be all hon - or and glo - ry,
 now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Baptisms

LONNIE immerses or pours water upon VERITY, saying

VERITY, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHRISMATION

VERITY, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen.

LONNIE immerses or pours water upon KATIE, saying

KATIE, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHRISMATION

KATIE, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen.

When this action has been completed, LONNIE says

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

Using the words found on page 17 of your service book, let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

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 Proclamation of Easter

SPRINKLING WATER on the people, LONNIE says

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends,
we have been buried with Christ in Baptism
and raised with him to newness of life.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O grave, is your sting?
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The PEOPLE CHEER and make a LOUD & BOISTEROUS NOISE. If outside, the doors of the church are flung open, and the People fill the sanctuary as the following hymn is sung. The remaining candles and lamps are lit as the crosses are unveiled and the Altar redressed.

ORGAN, PIANO & BRASS: PLAY LOUD!

Resurrection Hymn Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Hymn 207

***MC or EM: Rings the church bell
constantly for ALL FOUR verses of this hymn.***

***MC: Assist the clergy in the removal of all black veils
and redressing of the Altar.***

***Acolytes: Light all candles (if baptism took place
inside due to rain).***

The Resurrection Gospel [Matthew 28:1-10]

All standing, the Gospeller says

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 worshiped 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.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. Lonnie Lacy

The Peace

All stand. LONNIE says to the people

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Countless throngs of angels
stand before you to serve you night and day;
and, beholding the glory of your presence,
they offer you unceasing praise.

Joining with them,
and giving voice to every creature under heaven,
we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy).....Hymn S-128

The people remain standing. Then LONNIE continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power.
Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.
You formed us in your own image,
giving the whole world into our care,
so that, in obedience to you, our Creator,
we might rule and serve all your creatures.
When our disobedience took us far from you,
you did not abandon us to the power of death.
In your mercy you came to our help,
so that in seeking you we might find you.
Again and again you called us into covenant with you,
and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much
that in the fullness of time
you sent your only Son to be our Savior.
Incarnate by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
he lived as one of us, yet without sin.
To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation;
to prisoners, freedom;

to the sorrowful, joy.

To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death;
and, rising from the grave, destroyed death,
and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves,
but for him who died and rose for us,
he sent the Holy Spirit,
his own first gift for those who believe,
to complete his work in the world,
and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come
for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father,
having loved his own who were in the world,
he loved them to the end;
at supper with them he 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.”

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
Recalling Christ’s death and his descent among the dead,

proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand,
awaiting his coming in glory;
and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us,
this bread and this cup,
we praise you and we bless you.

LONNIE and People

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

LONNIE continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy
your Holy Spirit may descend upon us,
and upon these gifts,
sanctifying them
and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people,
the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup
may become one body and one spirit,
a living sacrifice in Christ,
to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
redeemed by the blood of your Christ.

Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember **Michael** our Presiding Bishop,

Scott our Bishop,

and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember **Katie, Verity**, and all who are baptized on this day.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ,

and those whose faith is known to you alone;
bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance
with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
with St. Anne and all the saints
who have found favor with you in ages past.
We praise you in union with them
and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
all honor and glory are yours,
Almighty God and Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

LONNIE and People

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept, after which the Celebrant says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem Hymn 174 (v. 1&4)

Facing the people, LONNIE says the following Invitation

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.

The Communion of the People

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

After Communion, LONNIE says

Using the Prayer of Thanksgiving found on page 23 of your
service booklet, let us pray.

LONNIE and People

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.

LONNIE blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Processional HymnYe Watchers and Ye Holy Ones Hymn 618

The Dismissal

ELLEN Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!