

Easter Vigil
April 16, 2022

What You Will Need
Bible, Candle, Bowl of Water

The Great Vigil of Easter has been called the “brightest jewel of Christian liturgy traced to early Christian times” (Book of Common Worship). We will observe it through three related services:

Service of Light
Giving thanks for the light of Christ, shining through the shadows

Service of Readings
Hearing the story of God’s saving acts through history

Service of Baptism
Remembering our baptism into the body of Jesus Christ

Service of Light
9am

Prayer for Light
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thank you, God, for the gift of your light — shining on the first day of creation, guiding us through the wilderness, leading us to the land of promise. You sent Jesus, light of the world, to be our way of truth and life. Help us to follow him each day and rest in him each night until at last we come to live with you in endless light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and with the Holy Spirit we give you honor and glory, now and always. Amen.

Light a candle and dwell in its glow while you sing “This Little Light of Mine.”

Service of Readings 1pm

Read one scripture every thirty minutes or at your own pace until 7pm. Following each reading, you are invited to sing the doxology.

1:00pm Genesis 1:1—2:4a

1:30pm Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

2:00pm Genesis 22:1-18

2:30pm Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

3:00pm Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6

3:30pm Isaiah 55:1-11

4:00pm Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11

4:30pm Ezekiel 36:24-28

5:00pm Ezekiel 37:1-14

5:30pm Daniel 3:1-29

6:00pm Jonah 1:1-2:9

6:30pm Zephaniah 3:14-20

Service of Remembrance of Baptism 7pm

Place a bowl of water in front of you as you observe this service.

Water is one of the most ancient symbols of our faith. It was water that the Israelites came through into freedom. It was water that Jesus was baptized in. It was water by which he called the disciples. It was water that he used to teach his disciples how to be servants to all. Tonight we renew our commitment to discipleship through water and the Spirit. We let go of all things we do not need. We remember our belovedness. We recommit to serve others with joy. So let us now go down to the river to pray...

DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY

American folk song

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece begins with a 2/4 time signature, changes to 3/4, and returns to 2/4. The melody is simple and folk-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "As I went down to the riv-er to pray, stud-y-ing a-bout that good old way and who shall wear the star - ry crown— Good Lord, show me the way! O *sis-ters, let's go down. Let's go down, come on down. O *sis-ters, let's go down, down to the riv-er to pray."

*brothers, fathers, mothers, sinners

Text and music: American folk song; "The Good Old Way," attr. to George H. Allan,
fr. *Slave Songs of the United States*, 1867.

A Reading from Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-13

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;

he gave gifts to his people.' The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Prayer over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We thank you, Holy God, for the gift of water!

On the first day of creation your Spirit moved across the water and you spoke the Word that made the world. In the days of Noah you sent a great flood to wash away bad things and start over again. In the time of Moses you led your people through the deep sea and into a new land.

In the Jordan river when Jesus was baptized by John you sent him your Spirit and said, You are my child. I love you.

Touching the water:

We thank you, Holy God, for the water of baptism. Now pour out your Holy Spirit on us. Give us life, wash us clean, set us free, and help us to be the beloved children you have made us to be in Jesus Christ our Savior. We praise you, Holy God, Three-in-One, forever and ever. Amen.

Touch the water, remember the grace which has claimed you. Remember who you are and whose you are. Remember and watch for the dawn.