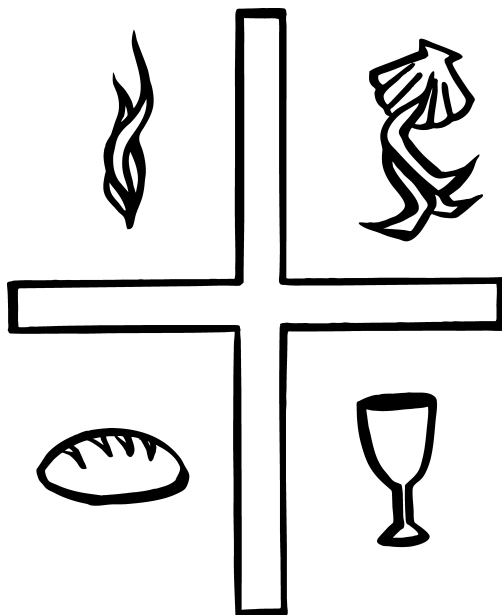


All Saints' Episcopal Church  
Chelmsford, Massachusetts



April 11, 2020  
Easter Vigil at Home

Holy Saturday (after sunset)

A VIGIL is a time spent in anticipation and excitement for something that will happen the next day. The Vigil of Easter is observed on the Saturday night before Easter and has three elements: fire, scripture, and water. Tonight, you can keep the vigil simply and powerfully in your home.

What you will need ahead of time:

- If you have a firepit that you can safely use outside, great. If not, a pillar candle in your house will do just fine. If you're inside, dim the lights. Additional candles are also desirable; electric/battery window candles would work well; this would also be a wonderful use for your baptismal candle.
- A large bowl of water
- An evergreen branch or a fresh sprig from a shrub
- Readers: Decide who is the leader, and assign readers in the family to different parts of the service.

Wait until sundown.

## Lighting the New Fire

Spend some time sitting in the darkness and quiet. Notice what it feels like, and remember the disciples huddled in fear in a room; they are sure that Jesus is dead and they are left alone.

Begin by saying together:

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.

Then say 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. *Amen.*

Now light the fire and from it other candles to spread the light, saying “the light of Christ” each time. Christians all over the world are placing electric candles in their windows tonight to mark the spread of the light of Jesus’ resurrection out of the darkness of the tomb.

Once all the candles are lit or placed in the windows, everyone can say this ancient song together:

**“REJOICE!** Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. **REJOICE!** Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King. **REJOICE!** Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

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!** 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!** 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!** This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

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.”

### **Scripture Reading: 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. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord*

**People: Thanks be to God**

### **Renewing our Baptismal Vows with Water**

*When we are baptized, we make promises to God and to each other. Tonight, we renew those promises. If there are other people at your house, let them take turns asking the questions. Everyone says the answers together.*

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

A: I do.

Q: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Q: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

A: 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.

Q: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

A: 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.

Q: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

A: I will, with God's help.

Q: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

A: I will, with God's help.

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

A: I will, with God's help.

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

A: I will, with God's help.

Q: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

A: I will, with God's help.

Say together:

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.

**Then say The Lord's Prayer together**

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.

