



SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE
in the
CITY OF NEW YORK

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Welcome to Saint Thomas Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.
Our mission is to worship, love and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ
through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage.

The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 11, 2020

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER — 5:30 p.m.
The Lighting of the Paschal Candle & Vigil Readings
Homilies by Fr. Adam Spencer, Associate for Pastoral Care

THE BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

The Celebrant says

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 thy Son thou hast bestowed upon thy people the brightness of thy 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 PREPARATION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

A Cross is marked on the Paschal Candle and then the letters of the Greek alphabet - alpha and omega — as the Celebrant says the following words:

Christ yesterday and today.
The Beginning and the End.
Alpha
and Omega.
His are the times
and ages.
To him be glory and dominion
through all the ages of eternity. Amen.

Five grains of incense are inserted, the Celebrant saying

Through his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ the Lord
guard and preserve us. Amen.

As the Paschal Candle is lit, the Celebrant says

May the light of Christ gloriously rising scatter the darkness of heart and mind.

THE PROCESSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF LIGHT

The Deacon bearing the Paschal Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing:

The light of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand and incense is offered.

The Proclamation of the Resurrection is sung by the Deacon.

THE EXULTET

(Sung to Plainsong, Solemn Tone.)

REJOICE now, all ye heavenly legions of Angels: and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation: and for the King that cometh with victory, let the trumpet proclaim salvation. Sing with joy, O earth, illumined with this celestial radiancy: and enlightened by the King eternal, thy glory, believe and know thou hast put away the darkness of all mankind. So likewise let his holy Church, our Mother, welcome the bright beams of light shed upon her: and let his holy courts be filled with the praises of his people. I pray and beseech you, therefore, dearly beloved, that all ye who here are present seeking this heavenly brightness, make your supplication with me to God the Almighty, that he would shew forth his mercy toward me. That he who in my unworthiness numbered me among his Ministers and called me to do him service: so also may vouchsafe to lighten my darkness, making me meet to praise this gift of fire with thankfulness. Through his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer: who liveth and reigneth with him in the unity of the Holy Ghost. World without end. *Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy, Father Almighty, Everlasting God. And that with the service of our lips we should glorify thee, and with heart and soul should praise thee, O God the Invisible and Almighty, and likewise thy only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Who paid for us to thee, O eternal Father the debt of Adam's transgression: and with his dear Blood wiped away the reproach of our former offences. Now therefore we sacrifice our Passover, wherein for us the very Lamb of God is slain, by whose Blood even the doors of his faithful people are made holy. Now is come the night, wherein, when our fathers the children of Israel were led forth out of Egypt, thou dividest the sea and madest them to go on dry land in the midst of the waters. Yea, now is come the night, that the fiery pillar hath taken away the darkness of our condemnation. Now is come the night, whereby all that believe in Christ upon the face of all the earth, delivered from this naughty world, and out of the shadow of death, are unto grace renewed, and made partakers of eternal life. Now is come the night, wherein the bonds of death were loosed, and Christ harrowing hell rose again in triumph. For wherefore should man be born into this world, save that being born he might be redeemed? O how wonderful is thy loving-kindness unto us thy children! O how unspeakable is the love that thou hast bestowed on us: who to redeem a servant, delivered up thine only Son! O how great is thy providence in man's necessity, to make by the blood of Christ from Adam's sin our salvation! O blessed iniquity, for whose redemption such a price was paid by such a Saviour! O night verily blessed, to thee alone that time and that hour were made manifest, when our Saviour Christ rose again from death unto life! Now is come the night, whereof David said: Behold, the night is as clear as the day: Then shall my night be turned into day. The holy mystery therefore of this night putteth to flight the deeds of darkness, purgeth away sin: restoreth innocence to the fallen, and gladness of them that mourn. Casteth out all hatred, bringeth peace to all mankind, and boweth down mighty princes.

THEREFORE, in this night of grace, accept, O holy father, thy this our evening sacrifice of incense: which thy holy Church by the hands of thy servants doth offer thee, wherein this candle of wax which thy creatures the bees did gather, is made a solemn oblation. Ye hear, brethren, the meaning of this pillar we have set up, which in God's honour the bright flame of fire doth set alight. Which though it be never so much divided, yet knoweth not variableness, nor loseth ought of its splendour. For wax that melteth doth but feed the flame, for thereunto have God's creatures the bees brought it forth, that it should give light in darkness.

ONIGHT verily blessed, which did spoil the people of Egypt and enrich Hebrews! O night, wherein heaven and earth are joined, and man is brought close to God. We pray thee, therefore, O Lord most Merciful: that this candle which we have lighted and consecrated before thee in thine own Name, may continue to shine forth without ceasing, and may vanquish all the shades of darkness. That being accepted before thee as a sweet savour, it may be numbered with the lights that thou hast kindled. May the Day-Star find it burning when he dawneth into day. The Day-Star that riseth and knoweth not his going down. But coming forth from the places of darkness gladly giveth forth light unto all creation. We beseech thee, therefore, O most Merciful: that thou wouldest direct and guide us thy servants, and the hearts of all thy faithful family: and all those also that minister in thy service: especially *Michael* our Presiding Bishop, and thy servant *Andrew* our own Bishop, so helping us with continual grace, that we may pass our time in rest and quietness, in the glad solemnity of our Redemption.

THROUGH the same thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer: Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost: ever one God, world without end. *Amen*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Celebrant says

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.

The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1—2:2

HOMILY

PSALM 33:1-11

REJOICE in the Lord, O ye righteous;* for it becometh well the just to be thankful.
2 Praise the Lord with harp;* sing praises unto him with the lute, and instrument of ten strings.
3 Sing unto the Lord a new song;* sing praises lustily unto him with a good courage.
4 For the word of the Lord is true;* and all his works are faithful.
5 He loveth righteousness and judgment;* the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.
6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made;* and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.
7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together, as it were upon an heap;* and layeth up the deep, as in a treasure-house.
8 Let all the earth fear the Lord;* stand in awe of him, all ye that dwell in the world.
9 For he spake, and it was done;* he commanded, and it stood fast.
10 The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought,* and maketh the devices of the people to be of none effect, and casteth out the counsels of princes.
11 The counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever,* and the thoughts of his heart from generation to generation.

COLLECT

O GOD, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

HOMILY

PSALM 46

- G**OD is our hope and strength,* a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved,* and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;
3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell,* and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
4 The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God;* the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.
5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed;* God shall help her, and that right early.
6 The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved;* but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
7 The Lord of hosts is with us;* the God of Jacob is our refuge.
8 O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord,* what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world;* he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.
10 Be still then, and know that I am God:* I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.
11 The Lord of hosts is with us;* the God of Jacob is our refuge.

COLLECT

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

HOMILY

PSALM 16

- P**RESERVE me, O God;* for in thee have I put my trust.
2 O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord,* Thou art my God; I have no good like unto thee.
3 All my delight is upon the saints that are in the earth,* and upon such as excel in virtue.
4 But they that run after another god* shall have great trouble.
5 Their drink-offerings of blood will I not offer,* neither make mention of their names within my lips.
6 The Lord himself is the portion of mine inheritance, and of my cup;* thou shalt maintain my lot.
7 The lot is fallen unto me in a fair ground;* yea, I have a goodly heritage.
8 I will thank the Lord for giving me warning;* my reins also chasten me in the night season.
9 I have set the Lord always before me;* for he is on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall.
10 Wherefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiced* my flesh also shall rest in hope.
11 For why? thou shalt not leave my soul in hell;* neither shalt thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption.
12 Thou shalt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is the fulness of joy,* and at thy right hand there is pleasure for evermore.

COLLECT

GOD and Father of all believers, for the glory of thy Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of thy children; that thy Church may rejoice to see fulfilled thy promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HOMILY

CANTICLE

Song of Moses

Exodus:1-18

I WILL sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea; his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

The depths have covered them; they sank into the bottom as a stone.

Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power-- thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

And in the greatness of thy excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood up as an heap; and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them."

Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them; they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises doing wonders?

Thou stretchest out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed; thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

The peoples shall hear and be afraid, sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.

Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them, all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.

Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm, they shall be as still as a stone,

Till thy people pass over O Lord, till the people passed over, which thou hast purchased.

Thou shalt bring them in and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place of the Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

The Lord will reign forever and ever.

COLLECT

O GOD, whose wonderful deeds of old shineth forth even to our own day, thou deliverest by the power of thy mighty arm thy 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.*

Salvation Offered Freely to All

Isaiah 55:1-11

HOMILY

PSALM 42:1-7

LIKE as the hart desireth the water-brooks,* so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

2 My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God:* when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my meat day and night,* while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

4 Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself;* for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of God;

5 In the voice of praise and thanksgiving,* among such as keep holy-day.

6 Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why art thou so disquieted within me?

7 Put thy trust in God;* for I will yet give him thanks for the help of his countenance.

COLLECT

O GOD, thou hast created all things by the power of thy Word, and thou renewest the earth by thy Holy Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for thee, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in thy glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A New Heart and A New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

HOMILY

PSALM 19:7-14

THE law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul;* the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.

8 The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart;* the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever;* the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold;* sweeter also than honey, and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover, by them is thy servant taught;* and in keeping of them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how oft he offendeth?* O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.

13 Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me;* so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the great offence.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be always acceptable in thy sight,* O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

COLLECT

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.*

The Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

HOMILY

PSALM 30

I WILL magnify thee, O Lord; for thou hast set me up,* and not made my foes to triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried unto thee;* and thou hast healed me.

3 Thou, Lord, hast brought my soul out of hell;* thou hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit.

4 Sing praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of his;* and give thanks unto him, for a remembrance of his holiness.

5 For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye, and in his pleasure is life;* heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

6 And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be removed;* thou, Lord, of thy goodness, hast made my hill so strong.

7 Thou didst turn thy face from me,* and I was troubled.

8 Then cried I unto thee, O Lord;* and gat me to my Lord right humbly.

9 What profit is there in my blood,* when I go down into the pit?

10 Shall the dust give thanks unto thee?* or shall it declare thy truth?

11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;* Lord, be thou my helper.

12 Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy;* thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness:

13 Therefore shall every good man sing of thy praise without ceasing.* O my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

COLLECT

ALMIGHTY God, by the Passover of thy only begotten Son thou hast brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by thy Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim thee to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GOSPEL READING

John 19:38-42

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.
People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

After the Gospel

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE FINAL COLLECT

O GOD, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of thy dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

All leave in silence.

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Reverend Matthew Moretz, *Associate Rector*
The Reverend Adam Spencer, *Associate for Pastoral Care*
The Reverend Alison J. Turner,
Associate for Children and Family Ministry
The Reverend Dr. Patrick S. Cheng,
Theologian in Residence
The Reverend Ryan Bennett, *Assistant Priest*
The Reverend Sister Marie Promise Atelon SSM, *Deacon*

STAFF

Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *Organist and Director of Music*
Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*
Nicholas Quardokus, *Assistant Organist*
Aaron W. Koch, *Head Verger*
Benjamin E. Williams, *Verger*
Andrew Berko, *Director of Administration and Finance*
Ann H. Kaplan, *Director of Development*
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