

THE KALENDAR

S. Stephen's Church
in Providence

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

11 APRIL 2020

VIRTUAL LOW MASS 7:30 PM

THE BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

Please stand when directed to do so. The New Fire is kindled in the darkness.

The Celebrant then addresses the people and blesses the New Fire.

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, in which by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray: O God, who through thy Son 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 the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PREPARATION AND LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Acolyte brings the Paschal candle to the Celebrant, who marks a cross on it. He then traces the Greek letter alpha above the cross, the letter omega below, and the numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross.

Meanwhile he says:

1. Christ yesterday and today
2. the beginning and the end
3. Alpha
4. and Omega
5. all time belongs to him
6. and all ages
7. to him be glory and power
8. through every age for ever. **Amen.**

When the cross and other marks have been made, the celebrant inserts five grains of incense in the candle. He does this in the form of a cross saying:

1. By His holy
2. and glorious wounds
3. may Christ our Lord
4. guard us
5. and keep us. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then lights the candle from the new fire, saying:

May the light of Christ, gloriously rising, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

THE PROCESSION

The Celebrant, bearing the Candle, processes from the Choir into the Sanctuary pausing three times and saying:

Celebrant The Light of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Viewers are encouraged to light candles at home during this time.

THE EXSULTET

All stand holding lighted candles while the Acolyte says the following:

Rejoice now, all ye heavenly legions of Angels: all high things that pass understanding: for the King that cometh with victory, let the trumpet proclaim salvation.

Sing with joy, O earth, illumed with this celestial radiancy: and enlightened by the eternal God, thy glory, believe and know that thou hast put away the darkness of all mankind.

So likewise let our Mother, his holy Church, welcome the bright beams of light shed upon her: and let his holy courts be filled with the praise of his people. Through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer: who liveth and reigneth with him and the Holy Ghost: ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Acolyte The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Acolyte Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Acolyte Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet and right, that with the service of our lips we should glorify and should praise with heart and soul God the invisible and almighty, and likewise his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who paid for us to the eternal Father the debt of Adam's transgression: and with his dear blood wiped away the reproach of our former offenses.

Now therefore we sacrifice our Passover, wherein for us the very Lamb of God is slain, by whose blood the doors of thy faithful people are made holy.

The night is come, wherein our fathers, the children of Israel, were led forth out of Egypt; thou dividedst the sea, and madest them to pass over as on dry land.

Yea, the night is come, that with the fiery pillar hath purged away the darkness of our condemnation.

The night is come, 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 renewed unto grace, and are made partakers of eternal life.

The night is come, 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? How wonderful then, O God, is thy loving-kindness unto us thy children! Behold, what manner of love he hath bestowed upon us: who to redeem a servant, delivered up his only Son!

O wonderful providence of Adam's transgression, that by such a death sin might be done away! O blessed iniquity, for whose redemption such a price was paid by such a Savior; O night verily blessed, to thee alone that time and that hour were made manifest, when our Savior Christ rose again from death unto life!

The night is come, whereof David said: Behold, the night is as clear as the day: Then shall my night be turned into day.

The mystery therefore of this most holy night putteth to flight the deeds of darkness, purgeth away sin: restoreth innocence to the fallen, and gladness unto them that mourn: casteth out hatred, bringeth peace to all mankind, and boweth down mighty princes.

O night verily blessed, which did spoil the people of Egypt, and magnified the Hebrews!

O night, wherein heaven and earth are joined, and mankind partaketh with the Godhead!

We pray thee therefore, O most merciful: that this candle which we have lighted and consecrated before thee in thy 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 savor, 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.

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

THE PROPHECY

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 READING – Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21 (Please be seated)

Tract – *Cantemus Domino (Read by Celebrant)*

1 We will sing unto the Lord for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2 The Lord is my strength and song: and he is become my salvation. 3. He is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation: my father's God and I will exalt him. 4. The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his Name.

Acolyte Let us pray. Let us bow the knee. *(Silence)* Arise.

Collect *(Please stand)*

Let us pray: O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, and who didst once deliver 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.**

THE BLESSING OF THE FONT AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Please remain standing.

THE LITANY OF THE SAINTS I *(Said by the Celebrant and People)*

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.**

Christe eleison. **Christe eleison.**

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.**

O Christ, hear us. **O Christ, graciously hear us.**

O God the Father of heaven: **Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: **Have mercy upon us.**

O God, the Holy Ghost: **Have mercy upon us.**

Holy Trinity, One God: **Have mercy upon us.**

Holy Mary: **Pray for us.**

Holy Mother of God: **Pray for us.**

Holy Virgin of Virgins: **Pray for us.**

(The same response is made until the following:)

Holy Anastasia: **Pray for us.**

All ye holy Virgins and Widows: **Pray for us.**

All ye Holy, Righteous, and Elect of God: **Intercede for us.**

THE BLESSING OF THE FONT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

We give thee thanks, Almighty God, for the gift of water, over which thy Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation; through which thou didst lead the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise; in which thy Son Jesus Christ received the baptism of John and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, being manifested thereby as the Messiah, the Christ, who leadeth us, through his precious death and mighty resurrection, from the bondage of sin unto life everlasting.

We give thee thanks, O Father, for the water of Baptism, in which we are buried with Christ in his death; by which we partake of his resurrection; through which we are made regenerate of the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to thy Son, we bring into his fellowship them that come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we beseech thee, by thy Holy Spirit (*repeated twice*) that those here cleansed from sin and made regenerate may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour, to whom, with thee and the same Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Through the Paschal mystery, dearly beloved, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

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

People **I do.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost
born of the Virgin Mary.
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Ghost?

People **I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant 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.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LITANY OF THE SAINTS II

Be thou merciful:

Spare us, good Lord.

Be thou merciful:

Graciously hear us, good Lord.

From all evil:

Good Lord deliver us.

From all deadly sin:

Good Lord deliver us.

(The same response is made until the following:)

Even though we be sinners:

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to spare us:

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

(The same response is made until the following:)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

Spare us, good Lord.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

Graciously hear us, good Lord.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, graciously hear us.

KYRIE ELEISON (*Missa de Beata Maria Virgine*) Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548 - 1611)

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The people extinguish their candles.

THE FIRST MASS OF EASTER

THE OPENING RITE

Please remain standing.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*Bells may be rung at the beginning*)

Glory be to God on high,

and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,

we worship thee,

we glorify thee,

we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,

have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;

thou only art the Lord;

thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high ✠ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who didst make this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in thy Church that spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship thee in sincerity and truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

EPISTLE READING – *Romans 6:3-11 (Please be seated)*

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For 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.**

PSALM 114 *In exitu Israel (Read in unison)*

- 1 When Israel came out of Egypt, * and the house of Jacob
from among the strange people.
- 2 Judah was his sanctuary, * and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea saw that, and fled; * Jordan was driven back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, * and the little hills like
young sheep.
- 5 What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? * and thou
Jordan, that thou wast driven back?
- 6 Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams? * and ye little hills,
like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord: * at the
presence of the God of Jacob;

**8 Who turned the hard rock into a standing water, * and the
flint-stone into a springing well.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son *
and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be *
world without end. Amen.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL – *Matthew 28:1-10*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

HOMILY (*Video can be accessed on the website*)

Fr. Mead

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Please stand.

ORATE, FRATRES

Celebrant Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this Sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit, and that of all his holy Church.**

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy servant.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **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.

But chiefly we are bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II *(Kneeling or standing)*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat,

THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.
Do this in remembrance of me."



Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you;

FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT
WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU, AND FOR MANY, FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."



Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy ✠ grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

✠ By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Celebrant & 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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI (*Missa de Beata Maria Virgine*)

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb
of God, that takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of
God, that takest away the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION – ECCE AGNUS DEI

Celebrant ✠ Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him that taketh away the sins
of the world. Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under
my roof:

People But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (*Read silently by the congregation*)

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of thy Church,
where thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I
desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul
and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to thee. And
since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come
spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with
all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from thee.
Let me live and die in thy love. Amen.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of thy garment, touched in
faith, healed the woman who could not touch thy Body, so the soul of thy
servant may be healed by like faith in thee, whom I cannot now
sacramentally receive; through thy tender mercy, who livest and reignest
with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost ever one God. Amen.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, alleluia: therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. 1 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast. 2 Not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 3 Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more: death hath no more dominion over him. 4 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: But in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 5 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin: but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 6 Christ is risen from the dead: and become the first fruits of them that slept. 7 For since by man come death: by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 8 For as in Adam all die: even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Glory be... *Christ our Passover... Everett Titcomb (1884 - 1968)*

THE CLOSING RITE

Please kneel if you are able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, **we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Depart in peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

All are invited to continue the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection at a brief reception to be held virtually following this service. Please see the Parish Notes for details.

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
in Providence

114 George Street, Providence RI 02906
(401) 421-6702

The Rev'd Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Priest-in-Charge*

The Rev'd Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd William Locke, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd Gary K. Sturni, *Assisting Priest*

James Busby, D.Mus., *Organist & Choirmaster*

Joel McCoy, *Cantor*

www.sstephens.org

communications@sstephens.necoxmail.com