

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Easter Vigil
8 pm • April 4, 2026

ABBREVIATIONS: **BCP** Book of Common Prayer | **CG** A Child's Guide to the Holy Eucharist | **LEVAS II** Lift Every Voice and Sing II | **WLP** Wonder, Love and Praise | **EOW** Enriching our Worship

The people will gather in the Memorial Garden.

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

BCP 285

Officiant The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. **Amen.**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.
Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

As we enter the sanctuary, we will chant three times:

People **The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 288

Officiant 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

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 36: 5-10

Dixit injustus

Cantor sings antiphon

Cantor & congregation sing antiphon

Cantor sings verses

Cantor & congregation sing antiphon after verses 6, 9, and 10.

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O Lord.

Antiphon

7 How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.

Antiphon

10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

Antiphon

Celebrant Let us pray. (*Silence is kept*)

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.**

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-15:1

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

493. O For a Thousand Tongues

Azmon

Celebrant Let us pray. (*Silence is kept*)

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.**

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

LEVAS 119. Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Morecambe

(*See next page for music.*)



1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart; Draw it from earth; through
 2. I ask no dream, no proph-et ec-sta - sies, No sud-den rend - ing
 3. Teach me to feel that thou art al-ways nigh; Teach me the strug - gles
 4. Teach me to love thee as thine an-gels love. One ho - ly pas - sion



all its puls-es move; Stoop to my weak-ness, might - y as thou
 of the veil of clay, No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o-p'ning
 of the soul to bear, To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el
 fill-ing all my frame; The kin-dling of the heav'n de-scend-ed



are, And make me love thee as I ought to love.
 skies; But take the dim-ness of my soul a - way.
 sigh; Teach me the pa-tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 dove, My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

Celebrant Let us pray. (*Silence is kept*)

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

Dry Bones

Traditional Spiritual

(Setting by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi)

Celebrant Let us pray. (*Silence is kept*)

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, 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.

THE HOLY BAPTISM

BCP 301

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

BCP 305

Let us now pray for Natalie Anne Kasab, who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open her hearts to your grace and truth. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send her into the world in witness to your love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant 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 forever. **Amen.**

THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BCP 306

THE BAPTISM

BCP 307

THE GREAT ALLELUIA

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

HYMN

Celtic Alleluia

O'Carrol/Walker

(Sung by all.)

Refrain

Al - le - lu - - ia! Al - le - - lu - - ia!

5
Al - le - lu - - ia! Al - le - - lu - - ia!

1 Now he is living, the Christ: Out of the tomb He is ris'n! He has conquered death, opened Heaven to all believers!

2 Christ is the first fruits from death, filling the church with His glory! Darkness vanishes in the light of His power.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

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.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 165. Higher Ground

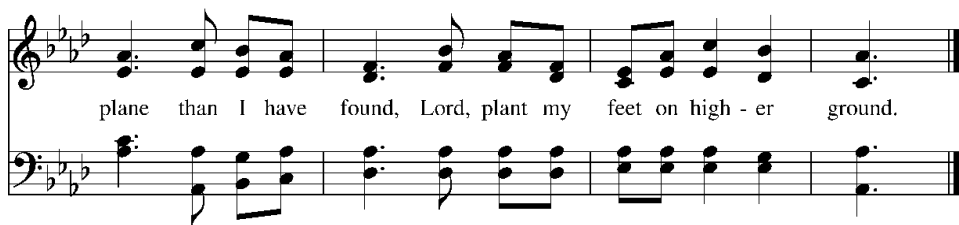
I'm pressing on the upward way

1. I'm press - ing on the up - ward way, New heights I'm
 2. My heart has no de - sire to stay Where doubts a -
 3. I want to live a - bove the world, Though sa - tan's
 4. I want to scale the ut - most height, And catch a

1. gain - ing ev - cry day; Still pray - ing as I on - ward bound,
 2. rise and fears dis - may; Though some may dwell where these a - bound,
 3. darts at me are hurled; For faith has caught a joy - ful sound,
 4. gleam of glo - ry bright; But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,

1. "Lord, plant my feet on high - er ground."
 2. My prayer, my aim is high - er ground. Lord, lift me
 3. The song of saints on high - er ground.
 4. "Lord, lead me on the high - er ground."

up, and let me stand By faith, on heav - en's ta - ble - land; A high - er



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

Celebrant 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP 372 | CG 53

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Traditional Version

BCP 364 | CG 45

THE COMMUNION HYMN
204. Now the Green Blade Riseth

Noël Nouvelet

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 366 | CG 27

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

THE FINAL HYMN
185. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands

Christ lag in Todesbanden

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the People, and the People respond:
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE POSTLUDE
Christ Lag in Todesbanden

Johann Sebastian Bach





CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY VESTRY 2026

Wardens Hannah Harris (Senior), Randy R. Smith (Junior), and
Jim Ingram (Junior)

Members Emily Jividen, Yvette Smith, Robert Joines, Lillis Ward,
Scott Beaver, Randy R. Smith

Officers Bill Sena (Treasurer), Susan Kelley (Registrar)





QUICK LINKS

Scan this QR code to fill out
a welcome card, give online,
and more.

We thank the following people for their service today:

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano
PREACHER	The Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano
Musicians (10:30)	Christian Schoen and the Nativity Choir
Lectors	George Douglas, Ed and Annette Hughes, Lloyd Childers, Julian McKimmon, Kyle West
Eucharistic Ministers	Harlan Hagge, Jeremy Clos
Crucifer	Helen Armstrong
Torches	Arjun Pant, Hannah Parker
Banner	Owen McKimmon
Children's Formation	Joe and Lillis Ward
Ushers	Emily and Ethan Phillips
Livestream Technician	Duff McAdams
Altar Guild	Emily Jividen, Olivene Virtue
Altar Flowers	Robin Rhaney
Vestry Representative	Jim Ingram

Church of the Nativity

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
8849 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-846-8338

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano	Rector
The Rev. George Black	Curate
The Rev. Ryan Parker	Priest Associate
Jeremy Clos	Lay Associate for Christian Formation
Christian Schoen	Organist and Choirmaster
Josh Anderson	Lay Associate for Communications and Administration
Monique Holmes	Business Manager
Eva Warren	Nursery Attendant
Robert Krahel	Sexton