

# Easter Vigil

## 11 April 2020

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### First Reading **Genesis 1:1 - 2:2**

A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,  
the earth was a formless void

and darkness covered the face of the deep,

while the spirit of God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good;

and God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light "Day,"

and the darkness he called "Night."

And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters,  
and let it separate the waters from the waters."

So God made the dome and separated the waters

that were under the dome from the waters

that were above the dome. And it was so.

God called the dome "Sky."

And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky

be gathered together into one place,

and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

God called the dry land "Earth,"

and the waters that were gathered together he called "Seas."

And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation:

plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth

that bear fruit with the seed in it."

And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation:

plants yielding seed of every kind,

and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.

And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky

to separate the day from the night;

and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,  
and let them be lights in the dome of the sky  
to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

God made the two great lights- the greater light to rule the day  
and the lesser light to rule the night- and the stars.

God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,  
to rule over the day and over the night,  
and to separate the light from the darkness.

And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,  
and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."

So God created the great sea monsters

and every living creature that moves, of every kind,  
with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas,  
and let birds multiply on the earth."

And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind:  
cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind."

And it was so.

God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind,  
and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every  
kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image,  
according to our likeness;

and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle,  
and over all the wild animals of the earth,  
and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created human beings in his image,  
in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them,

"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it;  
and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air  
and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed  
that is upon the face of all the earth,

and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.  
And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air,  
and to everything that creeps on the earth,  
everything that has the breath of life,  
I have given every green plant for food."

And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.  
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.  
And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on  
the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 103:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35**

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit,  
and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, you are great indeed.

How manifold are your works, O Lord!

The earth is full of your creatures. **R.**

If you take away their earth, O Lord  
they die and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit they live.

You renew the face of the earth. **R.**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever,  
and may the Lord be glad in his work.

Pleasing to him be my theme,  
for I rejoice in the Lord. **R.**

**Third Reading Exodus 14:15 - 15:1**

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me?  
Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you, lift up your staff,  
and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it,  
that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.

Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians  
so that they will go in after them;  
and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh  
and all his army,

his chariots, and his chariot drivers.

And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord,  
when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh,  
his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army  
moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved  
from in front of them and took its place behind them.

It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel.

And so the cloud was there with the darkness,  
and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea.

The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night,  
and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.

The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground,  
the waters forming a wall for them on their right  
and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them,  
all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.

At the morning watch, the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud  
looked down upon the Egyptian army,  
and threw the Egyptian army into panic.

He clogged their chariot wheels  
so that they turned with difficulty.

The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites,  
for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses,

"Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water  
may come back upon the Egyptians,  
upon their chariots and chariot drivers."

So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,  
and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth.

As the Egyptians fled before it,  
the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea.

The waters returned and covered the chariots  
and the chariot drivers,

the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea;  
not one of them remained.

But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea,  
the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians;

and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.  
Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians.  
So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord  
and in his servant Moses.

The prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister,  
took a tambourine in her hand;  
and all the women went out after her with tambourines  
and with dancing. Moses and the Israelites  
sang this song to the Lord:

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18**

**R. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!**

**I will sing to the Lord!**

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!  
Horse and rider has thrown into the sea!  
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.  
this is my God and I extol him,  
my father's God and I give him praise. **R.**

The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,  
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.  
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone. **R.**

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,  
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.  
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe. **R.**

You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,  
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,  
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.  
The Lord will reign for ever and ever. **R.**

### **Fifth Reading Isaiah 55:1-11**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### **Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6**

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

You are the God of my salvation,  
I trust in you and have no fear.

You are the God of all my singing,  
the one foundation of my life! **R.**

I will proclaim to all your people  
the wonders you have done for me!  
You are indeed a God of goodness,  
you draw me gently to your heart! **R.**

Let all who live upon God's mountain  
sing out in gladness and in joy!  
The Lord of all is living with you,  
the holy one who calls to you. **R.**

### **Epistle Romans 6:3-11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23**

**R. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Easter Vigil

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
the love of the Lord knows no ending.

Sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.' **R.**

The right hand of God raised me up.

The hand of the Lord has triumphed.

I shall never die,

I shall live telling his deeds. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected

becomes the corner stone chosen.

Praise the work of God,

For this marvel in our eyes. **R.**

### **Gospel Matthew 28:1-10**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

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 worshipped him.

Then Jesus said to them,

"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee;

there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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