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Easter Vigil - 16 April 2022

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16 April 2022

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Reflection by Russ McDougall

Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation

by Vincent Glynn

The usual and most appropriate time for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation is the Easter Vigil. 'The third step in the Christian Initiation of Adults is the celebration of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Through this final step the elect, receiving pardon for their sins, are admitted into the people of God. They are graced with adoption as children of God and are led by the Holy Spirit into the promised fullness of time begun in Christ and, as they share in the Eucharistic sacrifice and meal, even to a foretaste of the kingdom of God' (RCIA 23, 198, 199).

Those who have been fully initiated are now called neophytes. They will enter the final period of the RCIA, the period of post baptismal catechesis or mystagogy. (RCIA 234)

Introduction

The Easter Proclamation announces that 'This is the night!' We begin in darkness like the tomb in the garden and then we celebrate in the light of the Easter Candle as we proclaim Jesus who is the Light, who has come into the world and has conquered death.

Collect

The oration

Let us pray.

O God, who make this most sacred night radiant
with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection,
stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption,
so that, renewed in body and mind,
we may render you undivided service.

Commentary

This wonderful collect can only suffer from over commentary. It is truly a vigil prayer, since in the 'radiant night' we see the dark give way to light. The glory of the

resurrection is such that it overcomes all things, and even makes the night sacred. The light is here and now, and we are in its midst! The petition we seek is that God arouse us, stir us up. What follows is a theology of baptism, since it is the consequences of baptism that God is petitioned to bring to the fore. At the centre of the petition is the 'spirit of adoption': the baptised are the adopted daughters and sons of God (Rom 8:17). In this, the oration addresses both those about to be baptised, and those who are to renew their baptismal vows. As adopted in the Spirit, our entire selves are renewed, bodily and spiritually. Our response is simple: undivided service in worship and action. The renewal of creation has begun! Indeed, 'this is the night'.

A selection of the Old Testament readings for the Vigil follows. They are named according to the Roman Missal.

First Reading

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

According to an ancient Midrash, a rabbinic commentary on this story of creation, when God said, 'Let us make humanity in our image,' Truth spoke up and protested. 'Human beings will use their tongues to lie, and trample truth underfoot.' Then Peace also objected: 'Why should this creature, so full of strife and contention, appear on the earth to disturb the peace and harmony of creation?' Then the soft voice of Love was heard: 'Sovereign of the Universe, if you create human beings in your image, they will be noble creatures striving to imitate your attributes. Endowed with your Spirit, they will seek out those who are distressed to comfort them, raising up those who are bowed down in spirit, speaking peace to the heart of the widow, and giving shelter to orphans.' The Creator approved the voice of Love and called humankind into being.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 13-14 and 35c

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

Third Reading (This reading is obligatory)

Exodus 14:15 – 15:1

Many of the ancient sages were uncomfortable with this song, even though it celebrates *God's* victory, because it seems to rejoice in the death of others. And so they imagined different endings to the story. According to Rabbi Yohanan, when the sea fell upon the Egyptians, the angels who ministered before God's throne began to sing for joy. But the Holy One rebuked them, saying: 'The work of my hands is being drowned in the sea, and would you sing me songs?' Rabbi Nehunyah taught that the death of the Egyptians finally moved Pharaoh's heart to repentance. He had scoffed at God, asking Moses: 'Who is the Lord, that I should heed his voice?' But when he saw the destruction he had brought on his own people, Pharaoh joins in the song of

Moses and Miriam, expressing his repentance in words similar to those with which he had sinned: 'Who is like you, O Lord, among the mighty? Who is like you, awesome in splendour, worker of wonders?'

These midrashim are reminders to us that the saints among God's people have long understood that what God desires is not the destruction of those perceived as enemies, but their conversion.

Responsorial Cantic

Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

Fifth Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

In Jewish tradition the water that quenches thirst, gives life to the earth, and does not fail in the purpose for which God sends it, is the Torah, the Word of God. We believe that Word became flesh in Jesus. During the feast of Tabernacles, Sukkot, at which prayers for rain were offered, Jesus stood in the temple and cried out, 'Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink,' for from his heart rivers of living water flow.

Responsorial Cantic

Isaiah 12:2-6

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Seventh Reading

Ezekiel 36:16-28

All that is has come into being because God is love. Neither the sinfulness and disobedience of our past, nor the violence and tribulations of the present, nor the experience of exile or even death itself, can separate us from that love. As Ezekiel reminds us, redemption comes to us not because of anything we've done, but because of who God is. From God's point of view, creation and redemption are one action, because the gift that God gives, and gives again, is life.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 41:3, 5; 42:3,4

Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.

Epistle (Introduction by Joe Tedesco)

Romans 6:3-11

Paul reminds all Christians that our baptism is an enjoining with Christ in the paschal mystery; as we enter into the tomb with Christ we also, necessarily, join Christ in the resurrection.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118(117):1-2, 16-17, 22-23

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (v. 24)

The Lord's love has no end. Even that which appears abandoned and dead becomes the 'cornerstone' and a marvel to our eyes.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:1-12

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On this blessed night, we rejoice that over the forces of sin and death, God's love shows itself yet more powerful and enduring.

As the Scriptures have reminded us, it was God's love that called us into being, and has remained steadfast through the ages—

- though we have indeed used our tongues to lie, as Truth anticipated;
- though strife seems second nature to us, as Peace foresaw.

We know that at our worst we human beings are violent, spiteful, small-minded.

Yet, even so, the Eternal One has desired our friendship;

- has pursued us relentlessly through the ages;
- and has rejoiced when hearts have opened up in response to that invitation—the hearts of men and women like Abraham and Moses, Hannah and Ruth, Mary and Joseph; and the heart of Jesus, the Beloved Son, the Christ.

On this holy night, we rejoice that this Beloved Son is risen to *new* life that *can* and *does* include us,

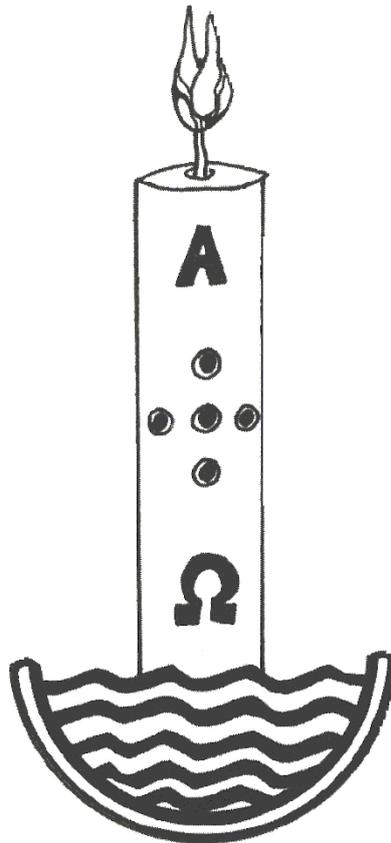
- life into which we're drawn through our baptism,
- life which is deepened as we open our hearts more and more to the Love that moves the sun and the stars,
- life that we're invited to share with others, loving generously, as we've been loved, because in the heart of God, who doesn't think in terms of zero-sums, there is room for us all.

If the life of Jesus really does offer us a glimpse into the very heart of God, then we may suspect that his heavenly Father, our heavenly Father, won't rest content until

he has won over the heart of every one of his sons and daughters, every living creature—and each one of us makes of our life what only each one of us can offer: a gift, given in love to God, a gift given for the sake of our fellow men and women. That's the only sacrifice God hopes for.

On this joyful night we join together in blessing the One who has loved us from all eternity, and who overcomes every death-dealing power to draw us to himself.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!



*We ask God
to pour out
the Holy Spirit
on the newly
baptised.*

Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction

With exultation and joy we proclaim that Christ is risen, and that through him we can now offer our prayers to the Father as so we pray:

Petitions

We pray for the Church, joyful witness to the resurrection of the Lord. For Pope Francis, other leaders of our Church both clergy and lay, and for all Christians who gather in celebration and wonder on this night.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for peace and reconciliation among all peoples and nations, and for those who have experienced natural disasters.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those baptised this night throughout the Church; for those received into full communion in the Catholic Church and confirmed with the gift of the Spirit.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all Christians who this night celebrate the triumph of life over death; may we announce the victory of Christ over evil as the women did after Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid.'

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those whose lives have been deeply disturbed by the pandemic, particularly those who rely on religious tourism as in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. May they find support through the generosity of others.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all those who suffer persecution as Christians. May they find strength in the resurrection to truly live their faith.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

Conclusion

Father, you have already granted us more than we can ask for in the resurrection of Christ. As you answer our prayers through the power of the Spirit, make us ever more faithful to him who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen.

Music selections by Alessio Loiacono and Chris deSilva

GA

Sprinkling of Holy Water:

Song over the waters. 435

Come to the feast. M Haugen. 400

Water of life. S Dean. 176

Other Hymns for the Liturgy:

All you nations. L Deiss. 353

Alleluia No. 1. D Fishel. 360

By your kingly power, O risen Lord. J McAuley/R Connolly. 352

Christ is alive, with joy we sing. P Stotter/ M Vulpius. 365

Christ, be our light. B Farrell. 404

Christ is here. C Walker. 351

Easter Alleluia. M Haugen. 358

Keep in mind. L Deiss. 391

Lift up your hearts. R O'Connor SJ. 416

Make us new. M Coleridge/J Wood. 436

Morning has broken. E Farjeon. Gaelic Melody 537

Now the green blade rises. J Crum/ French Carol. 364

O sons and daughters. J M Neale/ Gregorian Chant. 359

Out of darkness. C Walker. 504

Sing to the mountains. B Dufford SJ. 362

AOV1

Sprinkling of Holy Water:

Come to the feast. M Haugen. 151

Come to the water. F Andersen. 74

Other Hymns for the Liturgy:

Alleluia No. 1. D Fishel. 15

I have seen the Lord. B Hurd. 98

Keep in mind. L Deiss. 180

Morning has broken. E Farjeon/ Gaelic Melody. 135

Out of darkness. C Walker. 134

Sing to the Lord. O Alstott. 46

Sing to the mountains. B Dufford SJ. 92

AOV2

Christ, be our light. B Farrell. 3

Easter people. D Light. 147

Now the green blade rises. J Crum/ French Carol. 131

AOV4Kids

Come into God's presence singing. Traditional. 33

Sing new songs of joy. M Mangan. 57

Living in the light. L Good. 66

Rejoice in the Lord. Traditional melody. 75

Easter Alleluia. M Mangan. 80

Liturgy of Baptism: Processional antiphon

CWB

We come to you, Lord Jesus. Ralph Verdi CPPS. 279a

We come to you, Lord Jesus. Arthur Hutchings. 279b

Litany of the Saints

CWB

Litany of the saints. Chant, arr. Percy Jones. 280

CWBII

Litany of the saints. ICEL. 131

Blessing of water

CWB

Springs of water. Percy Jones. 282a

Springs of water. ICEL. 282b

CWBII

Springs of water, bless the Lord. ICEL. 104

Springs of water, bless the Lord. ICEL. 337

Springs of water, bless the Lord. ICEL. 338

Acclamations after baptisms

CWB

Blessed be God, who chose you. Arthur Hutchings. 283a

Blessed be God, who chose you. Christopher Willcock SJ. 283b

You have put on Christ. Howard Hughes SM. 283c

You have put on Christ. Percy Jones. 283d

You are God's work of art. Christopher Willcock SJ. 283e

Rejoice, you newly baptized. Arthur Hutchings. 283f

CWBII

You have put on Christ. ICEL. 105

Renewal of baptismal promises

CWB

This is our faith. Arthur Hutchings. 286c

CWBII

This is our faith. ICEL. 109

Sprinkling of Holy Water

CWB

Cleanse us, Lord. Douglas Mews. 543

Cleanse us, Lord. Ralph C. Verdi CPPS. 544

CWBII

I saw water flowing. ICEL. 29

If we have died to ourselves in Jesus. Marty Haugen. 30

You springs and all that moves. The Grail. 31

Springs of living water. Bernard Kirkpatrick. 32

Offertory Processional

CWB

Now the green blade rises. John M. C. Crum. 756

CWBII

Now the green blade rises. John M. C. Crum. 363
Surrexit Christus, alleluia! Taizé Community. 365

Communion Processional

CWB

By your kingly power. James Phillip McAuley. 633

CWBII

By your kingly power, O risen Lord. James Phillip McAuley. 352
Through the Red Sea brought at last. Ronald Arbuthnot Knox. 342

Dismissal

CWB

Go in the peace of Christ. 288

CWBII

Easter dismissal. ICEL. 339/340

Recessional Song

AOVNG

Jesus is risen. Monica O'Brien. 82

CWB

Christ the Lord is risen again. Michael Wiese. 646
Easter glory fills the sky. James Quinn SJ. 671

CWBII

Christ the Lord is ris'n again. Michael Wiese. 354
Easter glory fills the sky. James Quinn SJ. 358
Jesus Christ is ris'n today. Charles Wesley *et al.* 360
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son. Edmond Louis Budry. 368
This day was made by the Lord. Christopher Walker. 369

S&S2

Glory in the cross. Dan Schutte. 313
Join in the dance. Dan Schutte. 321

Psalms Selected by Chris deSilva and Angela McCarthy

The Easter Vigil, First Reading

Psalm 103: *Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*
Psalm 103: Percy Jones. CWB 267
Psalm 104: Lord, send out your spirit. Roger Heagney. GA 63
Psalm 104(103): Jenny O'Brien. JOBF pg. 12
Lord, send out your spirit: Paul Mason. PM pg. 82
Lord, send out your Spirit: Tony Alonso. LPSF pg. 32

The Easter Vigil, First Reading (alternate psalm)

Psalm 32: *The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.*
Psalm 32: Roger Heagney. CWB 268
The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord: Tony Alonso. LPSF pg. 36

The Easter Vigil, Second Reading

Psalm 15: *Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.*

Psalm 15: Douglas Mews. CWB 269
Psalm 16 (15): Jenny O'Brien. JOBF pg. 14
You are my inheritance: Tony Alonso. LPSF pg. 38

The Easter Vigil, Third Reading

Exodus 15: *Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself with glory.*
Exodus 15: Douglas Mews. CWB 270
Response to the third reading: Douglas Mews. GA 340
Exodus 15: Jenny O'Brien. JOBF pg. 16
Let us sing to the Lord: Paul Mason. PM pg. 112
Let us sing to the Lord: Marty Haugen. LPSF pg. 42

The Easter Vigil, Fourth Reading

Psalm 29: *I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.*
Psalm 29: Douglas Mews. CWB 271
Psalm 30: I will praise you, Lord: Jenny O'Brien. GA 29
Psalm 30 (29): Jenny O'Brien. JOBF pg. 18
I will praise you Lord: Marty Haugen. LPSF pg. 46

The Easter Vigil, Fifth Reading

Isaiah 12: *You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.*
Isaiah 12: Robert J. Batastini/Ernest Rayson SSS. CWB 272
Isaiah 12: Kathleen Boschetti MSC. CWB 603
Response to the fifth reading: Paul Inwood. GA 341
Isaiah 12:2-6: Jenny O'Brien. JOBF pg. 20
You will draw water joyfully: Marty Haugen LPSF pg. 49

The Easter Vigil, Sixth Reading

Psalm 18: *Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*
Psalm 18: C. Alexander Peloquin. CWB 273
Psalm 19 (18): Jenny O'Brien. JOBF pg. 22
Lord, you have the words: Paul Mason. PM pg. 6
Lord, you have the words of everlasting life: Tony Alonso LPSF pg. 52

The Easter Vigil, Seventh Reading

Psalm 41: *Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.*
Psalms 41/42: Kathleen Boschetti MSC. CWB 274
Psalm 42 (41): Jenny O'Brien. JOBF pg. 24
Like a deer that longs for running streams: Marty Haugen LPSF pg. 54

Easter Vigil, Seventh Reading (alternate psalm)

Psalm 50: *Create a clean heart in me, O Lord.*
Psalm 50: Kathleen Boschetti MSC. CWB 275
Psalm 50 (51): Frank Schoen. CWB 596b
Psalm 51 (50): Jenny O'Brien. JOBF pg. 26
Create a clean heart in me: Paul Mason. PM pg. 44
Create a clean heart in me, O God: Marty Haugen LPSF pg. 58

The Easter Vigil, Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 117: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
Psalm 117: Gregorian Chant/ Percy Jones. CWB 277

Psalm 118: This is the day: Christopher Willcock. GA 70

Psalm 118 (117): Jenny O'Brien. JOBF pg. 28

This is the day: Paul Mason. PM pg. 92

Music selections by Michael Mangan

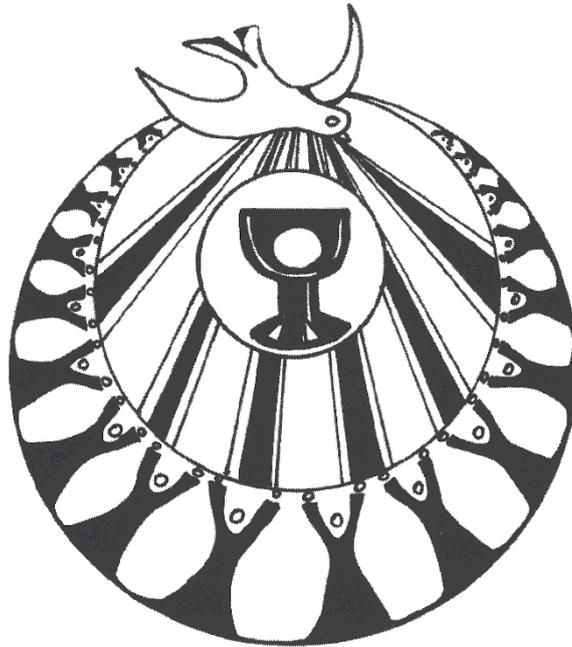
Live in the light (TWB) [Procession of the Paschal Candle]

This is the day that the Lord has made (LCC) *Ps 117 (118)* Children's Lectionary translation

At the tomb (TWML) [Gifts]

Easter alleluia (TT/SYJ) [Recessional]

This is the day (FWS) *Based on Ps 117/118* [Recessional]



**FILL US WITH YOUR
SPIRIT - MAKE US
ONE IN PEACE
AND LOVE.**