The Three Days – Vigil of Easter
April 10 2020

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.

Tonight, in this Vigil of Easter, we learn again that the stories we hear are not just old stories, but also our stories. In worship these stories lead us to one of faith’s most dramatic and life-giving journeys: the baptismal journey.

We are buried, raised, and united with Christ. In this we are also united with one another, so that in Christian community we accompany one another on all our journeys. The Vigil celebrates the baptismal journey by making room for all the elements and emotions of life, and it calls us into a community that can make that journey together as it trusts in the promise of God’s saving grace.

Gathering

As you prepare to worship and hear the stories of old, set an unlit candle.

As we gather in many places, we light our candles and pray.

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Thanks be to God.

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Vigil Readings

First Reading
Creation: Genesis 1:1 — 2:4a
Susan Black

As the prayer concludes, those assembled respond: Amen.
Second Reading
*Deliverance at the Red Sea*: Exodus 14:10-31
Claire Embil

*As the prayer concludes, those assembled respond*: Amen.

Third Reading
*Salvation freely offered to all*: Isaiah 55:1-11
Rita Hoffer

*As the prayer concludes, those assembled respond*: Amen.

Fourth Reading
*Valley of the dry bones*: Ezekiel 37:1-14
George Spiegel and Evelyn Hansen

*As the prayer concludes, those assembled respond*: Amen.

Fifth Reading
*The deliverance of Jonah*: Jonah 1:1—2:1
Kathryn Johnson

*As the prayer concludes, those assembled respond*: Amen.

Reflection
Pastor John Schumacher

A time of silence follows the reflection.

*We conclude in prayer.*

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**