

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

Bishop Cait: Dear brothers and sisters,
on this most sacred night,
in which our Lord Jesus Christ
passed over from death to life,
the Church calls upon her sons and daughters,
scattered throughout the world,
to come together to watch and pray.
-If we keep the memorial
of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way,
listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries,
then we shall have the sure hope
of sharing his triumph over death
and living with him in God.

Then the Priest blesses the fire, saying with hands extended:

Bishop Cait: Let us pray. O God, who through your Son
bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory,
sanctify † this new fire, we pray,
and grant that,
by these paschal celebrations,
we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires,
that with minds made pure
we may attain festivities of unending splendor.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

The Bishop lights the paschal candle saying:

Bishop Cait: May the light of Christ rising in glory

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The Easter Proclamation (Exsúltet)

Bishop Cait: May the Lord be in my heart and on my lips, that I may proclaim his paschal praise worthily and well, in the name of the Father and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Easter Proclamation

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

(Therefore, dearest friends,
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,
invoke with me, I ask you,
the mercy of God almighty,
that he, who has been pleased to number me,
though unworthy, among the Levites,
may pour into me his light unshadowed,
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises).

(V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.)

V. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just,
with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.
O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night
of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me,
and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,

an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar,
which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,
a fire into many flames divided,
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,
for it is fed by melting wax,
drawn out by mother bees
to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honor of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.

May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Bishop Cait: Dear brothers and sisters,
now that we have begun our solemn Vigil,
let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God.
Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people
and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer.
Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation
by the fullness of redemption.

First reading

Genesis 1:1-2:2 [©](#)

God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very good

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night.' Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said, 'Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two.' And so it was. God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called the vault 'heaven.' Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, 'Let the waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.' And so it was. God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas', and God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.' And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.' And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth.' Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast.' And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.'

God created man in the image of himself,
in the image of God he created him,
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35.*

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

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
You are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak.

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

You fixed the earth upon its foundation,
not to be moved forever;
with the ocean, as with a garment, you covered it;
above the mountains the waters stood.

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

You send forth springs into the watercourses
that wind among the mountains.
Beside them the birds of heaven dwell;
from among the branches they send forth their song.

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

You water the mountains from your palace;
the earth is replete with the fruit of your works.
You raise grass for the cattle, and vegetation for man's use,
Producing bread from the earth.

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

How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have wrought them all—
the earth is full of your creatures.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! Alleluia.

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

Second reading

Genesis 22:1-18 [©](#)

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

Rising early next morning Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He chopped wood for the burnt offering and started on his journey to the place God had pointed out to him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then Abraham said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and come back to you.'

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering, loaded it on Isaac, and carried in his own hands the fire and the knife. Then the two of them set out together. Isaac spoke to his father Abraham, 'Father' he said. 'Yes, my son' he replied. 'Look,' he said 'here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' Abraham answered, 'My son, God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.' Then the two of them went on together.

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then

looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

Abraham called this place 'The Lord Provides', and hence the saying today: *On the mountain the Lord provides.*

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Repeat: You are my inheritance, O Lord.

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.
I set the LORD ever before me;

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Third reading

Exodus 14:15-15:1 ©

The sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.'

Then the angel of God, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long.

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and of cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried. 'The Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!'

‘Stretch out your hand over the sea,’ the Lord said to Moses, ‘that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.’

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh’s whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them.

That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

Canticle Hymn of victory after crossing the Red Sea

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18

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

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

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
He is my God, I praise him;
the God of my father, I extol him.

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

The LORD is a warrior, LORD is his name!
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

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

The flood waters covered them,
they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,

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

You brought in the people you redeemed
and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance
the place where you made your seat, O LORD,
the sanctuary, LORD, which your hands established.
The LORD shall reign forever and ever.

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

Fourth reading

Isaiah 54:5-14 ©

**With everlasting love the Lord your redeemer has taken pity on
you**

Thus says the Lord: Now your creator will be your husband,
his name, the Lord of Hosts; your redeemer will be the Holy One of Israel,
he is called the God of the whole earth.
Yes, like a forsaken wife, distressed in spirit, the Lord calls you back.
Does a man cast off the wife of his youth? says your God.
I did forsake you for a brief moment, but with great love will I take you back.
In excess of anger, for a moment I hid my face from you.
But with everlasting love I have taken pity on you, says the Lord, your
redeemer.

I am now as I was in the days of Noah when I swore that Noah's waters should never flood the world again.

So now I swear concerning my anger with you and the threats I made against you; for the mountains may depart, the hills be shaken, but my love for you will never leave you and my covenant of peace with you will never be shaken, says the Lord who takes pity on you.

Unhappy creature, storm-tossed, disconsolate, see, I will set your stones on carbuncles and your foundations on sapphires.

I will make rubies your battlements, your gates crystal, and your entire wall precious stones.

Your sons will all be taught by the Lord. The prosperity of your sons will be great.

You will be founded on integrity; remote from oppression, you will have nothing to fear; remote from terror, it will not approach you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13*

. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld;
you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger lasts but a moment; a lifetime, his good will.
At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with the dawn, rejoicing.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;
O LORD, be my helper.
You changed my mourning into dancing;
O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me..

Fifth reading

Isaiah 55:1-11 [©](#)

Come to me and your soul will live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes

from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The rejoicing of a redeemed people

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6*

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

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

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

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

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;
among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name.

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

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

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

Sixth reading: Baruch 3:9-15,32-4:4

In the radiance of the Lord, make your way to light

Listen, Israel, to commands that bring life;
hear, and learn what knowledge means.
Why, Israel, why are you in the country of your enemies,
growing older and older in an alien land,
sharing defilement with the dead,
reckoned with those who go to Sheol?
Because you have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.
Had you walked in the way of God,
you would have lived in peace for ever.
Learn where knowledge is, where strength,
where understanding, and so learn
where length of days is, where life,
where the light of the eyes and where peace.
But who has found out where she lives,
who has entered her treasure house?
But the One who knows all knows her,
he has grasped her with his own intellect,
he has set the earth firm for ever
and filled it with four-footed beasts.
He sends the light – and it goes,
he recalls it – and trembling it obeys;
the stars shine joyfully at their set times:
when he calls them, they answer, ‘Here we are’;
they gladly shine for their creator.
It is he who is our God,
no other can compare with him.
He has grasped the whole way of knowledge,
and confided it to his servant Jacob,
to Israel his well-beloved;
so causing her to appear on earth
and move among men.
This is the book of the commandments of God,
the Law that stands for ever;
those who keep her live,
those who desert her die.

Turn back, Jacob, seize her,
in her radiance make your way to light:
do not yield your glory to another,
your privilege to a people not your own.
Israel, blessed are we:
what pleases God has been revealed to us.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *19:8, 9, 10, 11*

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul;
the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold;
sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Seventh reading: Ezekiel 36:16-17,18-28

I shall pour clean water over you and I shall give you a new heart

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘Son of man, the members of the House of Israel used to live in their own land, but they defiled it by their conduct and actions. I then discharged my fury at them because of the blood they shed in their land and the idols with which they defiled it. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them in foreign countries. I sentenced them as their conduct and actions deserved. And now they have profaned my holy name among the nations where they have gone, so that people say of them, “These are the people of the Lord; they have been exiled from his land.”

‘But I have been concerned about my holy name, which the House of Israel has profaned among the nations where they have gone.

‘And so, say to the House of Israel, “The Lord says this: I am not doing this for your sake, House of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I mean to display the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them. And the nations will learn that I am the Lord – it is the Lord who speaks – when I display my holiness for your sake before their eyes. Then I am going to take you from among the nations and gather you together from all the foreign countries, and bring you home to your own land.

“I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols. I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you, and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances. You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors. You shall be my people and I will be your God.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

R. (3) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

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

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

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

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

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

Epistle

Romans 6:3-11 ©

Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a Christian dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gradual (Stand)

Bishop Cait: They that loves wisdom, love life.

All: And they that seek her early shall be filled with joy.

Bishop Cait Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.

All: And I shall keep it unto the end.

Munda Cor Meum (Stand)

Bishop Cait: I weave a silence into my mind. I weave a silence onto my lips. I weave a silence within my heart. I close my ears to confusion. I close my eyes to enticements. I close my heart to temptations. Calm me, my Savior, as you stilled the storm. Comfort me, my Redeemer, keep me from destruction. Let all turmoil within me cease. Enfold me, Lord Christ, with your peace.

The Priest then kneels before the altar and says the following prayer:

Bishop Cait: Cleanse my heart and my lips, O God, who by the hand of your angel cleansed the lips of the prophet Isaiah with a burning coal from your altar and in your loving kindness so purify me that I may worthily proclaim your Holy Gospel; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Bishop Cait: May the Lord be in my heart (+) and on my lips (+), that

through my heart the love of God may shine forth and through my lips His power be made manifest.

All: Amen.

The Holy Gospel (Stand)

Bishop Cait: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

ALL: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Gospel Acclamation: **He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you into Galilee**

Bishop Cait *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

ALL: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

All: Glory be to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see

the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him.” Now I have told you.’ Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. ‘Greetings’ he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.’

Homily

The Litany of Victory (Stand)

Bishop Cait: May the saints be with you.

All: And also with you.

Bishop Cait: With St. John the Evangelist who soars like an eagle,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Andrew, Apostle, martyr, and Patron of Scotland,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With the Fathers of the Desert who were weaned from selfishness,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Ninian of the shining household of faith,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Brendan the navigator of spiritual pilgrimage,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. David, flame and faith-builder of Wales,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Patrick, slave of Christ and Apostle of the Irish,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Brigid, mid-wife of faith to the people,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Kentigern, faithful pilgrim and founder of communities,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Columcille, Christ's giant of the Holy Isles,

C: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Aidan, gentle shepherd and apostle of England,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Ita, foster-mother of all the Celtic saints,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Morgan, father of Celtic theology ,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Columbanus, preacher, teacher and example of piety,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Ciaran, friend of God's creatures,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Declan, prince and healer of disease,

All: We claim the victory of the Lord.

Bishop Cait: With St. Colman, defender of the Faith,

**All: We claim the victory of the Lord; which is ours through
Christ the Triumphant King.**

Blessing the Easter Water

Bishop Cait: O God, who by invisible power
accomplish a wondrous effect through
sacramental signs

and who in many ways have prepared water,
your creation, to show forth the grace of
Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit
in the first moments of the world's creation
hovered over the waters, so that the very
substance of water

would even then take to itself the power to
sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood
foreshadowed regeneration,
so that from the mystery of one and the same
element of water

would come an end to vice and a beginning of
virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham

to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea,
so that the chosen people,
set free from slavery to Pharaoh,
would prefigure the people of the baptized;
O God, whose Son,
baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan
was anointed with the Holy Spirit,
and, as he hung upon the Cross,
gave forth water from his side along with blood,
and after his Resurrection, commanded his
disciples:
"Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of
the Holy Spirit,"
look now, we pray, upon the face of your
Church
and graciously unseal for her the fountain of
Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit
the grace of your Only Begotten Son,
so that human nature, created in your image,
and washed clean through the Sacrament of
Baptism,
from all the squalor of the life of old,
may be found worthy to rise to the life of
newborn children through water
and the Holy Spirit.

*And, if appropriate, lowering the paschal candle
into the water either once or three times, s/he
continues;*

May the power of the Holy Spirit,
O Lord, we pray
come down through your Son
into the fullness of this font,

and, holding the candle in the water, s/he continues;

so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Then the candle is lifted out of the water, as the people acclaim;

ALL: Springs of water, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.

A Renewal of Baptismal Promises

All hold lighted candles in their hands, and renew the promise of baptismal faith.

Bishop Cait: Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

Bishop Cait: Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

All: I do.

Bishop Cait: Do you renounce the lure of

evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

All: I do.

Bishop Cait: Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

All: I do.

Bishop Cait: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Bishop Cait: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Bishop Cait: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Bishop Cait: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

All: Amen.

When done online EACH person sprinkles themselves with the blessed water.

Gloria

Bishop Cait: Glory to God in the highest,

All: And peace to His people on earth. Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory! Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father! Lord God, Lamb of God! You take away the sins of the world, Lord, have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer--for You alone are The Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

The Peace (Stand)

Bishop Cait: Jesus Christ, the King of Tenderness, binds us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My brothers and sisters, the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Bishop Cait: Let's offer each other the sign of peace.

The Offertory (Sit)

Bishop Cait: From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same the Lord's name shall be magnified; and in every place incense shall be offered unto His name and a pure offering. There shall be heard in this place the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving into the house of the Lord.

The Doxology (Stand)

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Bishop Cait: We adore thee, O God, who are the source of all life and goodness and with true and thankful hearts we offer unto you this sign of your own life-giving gifts bestowed upon us, you who are the giver of all.

She pours wine and a little water into the chalice saying:

Bishop Cait: According to immemorial custom, we now mix water with this wine, praying, O Lord, that we may evermore abide in Christ and He in us.

She offers the chalice saying:

Bishop Cait: We offer unto you, O Lord, this chalice with joy and gladness; may the worship we offer ascend before your divine majesty as a sacrifice, pure and acceptable in your sight; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Lavabo (Sit)

Bishop Cait: I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord: and so will I go to your altar. That I may show the voice of thanksgiving; and tell of all your wondrous works. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son (+), and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and forever shall be; world without end.

All: Amen.

Bishop Cait: Lord, be with me in the breaking of the bread and in the offering of wine. Bless my body and soul for they are yours.

All: Amen.

Orate Fratres (Sit)

Bishop Cait: Brothers and Sisters, pray that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

All: May the Lord receive the sacrifice at your hands and sanctify our lives in His service.

Bishop Caiti: We lay before you, O Lord, these your creatures of bread and wine, in token of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; for here we offer and present unto you ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a holy and continual sacrifice unto you, that we, who are very members incorporate in the mystical body of your Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people, may hear his most joyful voice: "Come unto me, O you that are blessed of my Father and possess the kingdom which is prepared for you from the beginning of the world," through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God throughout all ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Sursum Corda and Sanctus (Stand)

Bishop Cait: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop Cait: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Bishop Cait: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

All: It is proper and right so to do.

Bishop Cait It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,
but on this night, above all,
to laud you yet more gloriously,
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb
who has taken away the sins of the world;
by dying he has destroyed our death,
and by rising, restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory,
as they acclaim:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord most high.
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna
in the highest!**

Prayer of Consecration (Sit or Kneel)

(Based on Celtic folk-prayers.)

Bishop Cait: High King of the universe, who sustains the worlds, who brought forth the earth; You breathe wisdom into all your creatures, until we reflect Your love. In our pain and sorrow we cry to Your tender Lamb, slain before the foundation of the world, perfect sacrifice for our sins. Who in the night in which he was betrayed took bread into His holy and venerable hands. And after He had given thanks, He blessed it and broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, **"Take and eat of this all of you, for this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."** In like manner he took the cup. And after He had given thanks, He blessed it and gave it to His disciples, saying, **"Take and drink of this all of you, for this is my blood, the blood of the new covenant which is shed for all for the remission of sins. As often as you do this, do it in remembrance of me."** For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Epiclesis

Bishop Cait: Therefore, Heavenly Father, with this bread and wine we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of our Lord and of His resurrection, that these elements may become for us the Body (+) and Blood (+) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

THE GREAT AMEN SO SAY IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Sit or Kneel)

Bishop Cait: And now we pray as our Savior taught us.

The Priest elevates the host.

All 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. 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.

Fracture and Agnus Dei (Sit or Kneel)

The Priest breaks the host while it is elevated.

Bishop Cait: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world;

All: Have mercy on us.

Bishop Cait You that take away the sins of the world;

All: Receive our prayer.

Bishop Cait: You that sit on the right hand of God the Father;

All: Grant us your peace. For you only are holy; you only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Communion Prayer (Sit or Kneel)

All: Lord grant me, I pray you in the name of Jesus Christ Your Son, my God, through the receiving of this Blessed Sacrament, that love which knows no fall, so that my lamp may feel His kindling touch and know no quenching, may burn for me, and may give light for others. O Lord Christ,

who is present in the bread and wine, bless the path on which we tread and guide us in the way to your Kingdom. Amen.

Bishop Cait: Lord Christ, our Savior most sweet, deign to kindle our lamps through communion with you, that they may shine continually in your temple, and receive perpetual light from you, the eternal Light, so that our darkness may be driven from us. May we become broken bread and poured out wine, abiding in you and you in us.

All: Amen.

Holy Communion (Sit or Kneel)

Bishop Cait: Risen Christ, we welcome you. You are the flowering bough of creation; from you cascades music like a million stars, truth to cleanse a myriad of souls. From you flee demons, omens and all ill will. Around you rejoice the angels of light. Father, send us the tender Spirit of the Lamb; feed us with the Bread of Heaven; refresh us with the Cup of Salvation. Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.
(The celebrant communes.)

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

The Invitation (Sit or Kneel)

Bishop Cait: Draw near with faith, and receive this Blessed Sacrament for your spiritual health and comfort.

All: Amen.

Post-Communion (Sit or Kneel)

Bishop Cait Intones: Salvation is of the Lord!

All Repeat: Salvation is of the Lord!

Bishop Cait: Salvation is of the Christ!

All Repeat: Salvation is of the Christ!

Bishop Cait: Heaven is intertwined with earth.

All: We have taken the divine life into ourselves.

Bishop Cait: And so each may say,

All: I rise up clothed in the strength of Christ. I am no longer imprisoned by sin. I shall not be harmed by evil. I go clothed in Christ's pure garments.

Bishop Cait: By the task that we have done we bind our souls to you;

All: Father, Son (+), and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction (Sit or Kneel)

SOLEMN BLESSING

Bishop Cait: May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin.

R. Amen.

Bishop Cait: And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality.

R. Amen.

Bishop Cait: Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

R. Amen.

Bishop Cait: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R. Amen.

P: Go in peace and in the strength of Christ. Our Offering is complete!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Amen. ALLELUIA!

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!