



*"The Empty Tomb" by Mikhail Nesterov*

## Easter Vigil

April 8, 2023

### Announcements:

*After announcements, the community proceeds outside.*

### OPENING RITES

**Prelude:** *"If you Will"*

*Darlene Franz*

***If you will, if you will, if you will, if you will,  
you can become all flame, become all flame, become all flame.  
You can become all flame. Become all flame.***

### The Lighting and Blessing of the New Fire

Dear friends in Christ, let us begin our solemn Vigil. Throughout the forty days of Lent, we have journeyed in the wilderness, risking what is foolish in the eyes of the world to follow the call of the Jesus to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Through light and word, through water, bread and wine, let us celebrate the new life that Christ shares with us.

*The fire is lighted.*

On this most holy night, When Jesus passed from death to life, we come together as his disciples in vigil and prayer.

*The fire is blessed.*

God, Creator of Darkness and Light, we share in the light of Your glory through Jesus, the light of the world. Make this fire holy +  
and inflame us with Your spirit of new hope.

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to You and all ages.

*The Paschal Candle is lit from the newly kindled fire.*

O Christ, may Your rising in glory, enlighten our hearts and minds, and illuminate our ways.

*Lighting the candles of the Assembly amid song.*

**Exsultet**     *“Christ, Be Our Light, Easter Vigil Text” (vss. 1, 3), Bernadette Farrell*

This is the night, of new beginnings  
This is the night when heaven meets Earth  
This is the night filled with God’s glory  
Promise of our new birth.

***Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,  
Christ be our light, shine in your church, gathered today.***

Now will the fire, kindled in darkness  
Burn to dispel the fear of night.  
Star of the morning, Jesus Messiah  
Giving the world new light. (R)

***Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,  
Christ be our light, shine in your church, gathered today.***

*Incensing of the Fire, the Easter Candle and the Assembly*

## **Procession into the Sanctuary**

*The Paschal Candle is carried into the church. Three times, the Easter candle is elevated and the candle bearer sings:*

Candle bearer: Christ our light.

***All: Thanks be to God.***

## **The Exsultet (vss. 2, 4, & 5)**

*Farrell*

Our God be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them up to God.***

Let us give thanks to God Creator. ***It is right and just.***

***All:***

This is the night, Christ liberator,  
Rose from the grave triumphant and free,  
Leaving the tomb of evil and chaos,  
Empty for all to see. ***(R)***

***Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness, Christ be our light, shine in your church, gathered today.***

Sing of the hope, deeper than dying,  
Sing of the pow'r, stronger than death  
Sing of the love, endless as heaven,  
Dawning throughout the earth. ***(R)***

Into this world, morning is coming;  
All of God's people, lift up your voice,  
Cry out with joy, tell out the story,  
All of the earth rejoice. ***(R)***

## **Opening Prayer**

**Psalm Response between sets of Readings**  
***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the Risen One.***  
***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.***

*Alleluia No. 1, Fishel*

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Genesis 1:1-5*

## **“Creating”**

### ***Genesis 1:1-5***

In the beginning, God created the cosmos. After eons of time, God created our planet, Earth. Earth began as formless and unfilled. Fertile darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved over the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that it was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness, Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### **“ON THE BEACH AT NIGHT ALONE”**

*by Walt Whitman*

On the beach at night alone,  
As the old mother sways her to and fro singing her husky song,  
As I watch the bright stars shining, I think a thought of the clef of the universes and of the future.

A vast similitude interlocks all,  
All spheres, grown, ungrown, small, large, suns, moons, planets,  
All distances of place however wide,  
All distances of time, all inanimate forms,  
All souls, all living bodies though they be ever so different, or in different worlds,  
All gaseous, watery, vegetable, mineral processes, the fishes, the brutes,  
All nations, colors, barbarisms, civilizations, languages,  
All identities that have existed or may exist on this globe, or any globe,  
All lives and deaths, all of the past, present, future,  
This vast similitude spans them, and always has spann'd,  
And shall forever span them and compactly hold and enclose them.

### **Sung Psalm Response:**

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the Risen One.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.***

## **“RELATING”**

### ***Exodus 3:1-6***

Now Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God where the angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that, though the bush was on fire, it did not burn up. So, Moses thought, “I will go over and see this wondrous sight—why the bush does not burn up.” God saw Moses had gone to

look. Seeing that Moses was afraid, God called from within the flaming bush, "Moses! Moses!" Moses replied, "Here I am." God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy. I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Leah and Rachel.

***From "Little Gidding" in "Four Quartets"***

*T. S. Eliot*

The dove descending breaks the air  
With flame of incandescent terror  
Of which the tongues declare  
The one discharge from sin and error.  
The only hope, or else despair  
Lies in the choice of pyre or pyre—  
To be redeemed from fire by fire.  
Who then devised the torment? Love.  
Love is the unfamiliar Name  
Behind the hands that wove  
The intolerable shirt of flame  
Which human power cannot remove.  
We only live, only suspire  
Consumed by either fire or fire.

**Sung Psalm Response**

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the Risen One.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.***

**"LIBERATING"**

*Exodus 14:15-16, 21-22, 15:1ab, 13*

God said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward! And you, lift up your staff, and with your hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two that the Israelites can pass through it on dry land...Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and God swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night so that it turned into dry land. When the water was divided, the Israelites passed into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left...Then Moses and the Israelites sang a song to God..."In Your love You led the people into life, in Your strength You guided them to Your holy dwelling..."

***“Touched by an Angel”****Maya Angelou.*

We, unaccustomed to courage,  
exiles from delight,  
live coiled in shells of loneliness  
until love leaves its high holy temple  
and comes into our sight  
to liberate us into life.  
Love arrives  
and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure  
ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold,  
love strikes away the chains of fear  
from our souls.  
We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light  
we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see  
that love costs all we are  
and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love  
which sets us free.

**Sung Psalm Response:*****Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the Risen One.******Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.*****“TRANSFORMING”***Baruch 3:14, 32, 38, 4:1b, 2*

Learn where Wisdom is, where strength, where understanding, that  
you may also know where is life, and length of days; where light of  
the eyes, and where peace...God who knows all things, knows Wisdom. She holds the  
fullness of divine knowledge, the knowledge of the One who formed and fashioned  
Earth, filling it with four footed beasts.

From the beginning, She has appeared on Earth and moved among  
humankind...All who cling to Her will live...Turn O People, and  
receive Her. Walk by Her light toward splendor.



**Conclusion of “Little Gidding” in “Four Quartets”***T. S. Eliot*

With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this Calling  
We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.  
Through the unknown, remembered gate  
When the last of earth left to discover is that which was the beginning;  
At the source of the longest river  
The voice of the hidden waterfall  
And the children in the apple-tree  
Not known, because not looked for  
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness  
Between two waves of the sea.  
Quick now, here, now, always—  
A condition of complete simplicity  
(Costing not less than everything)  
And all shall be well and  
All manner of thing shall be well  
When the tongues of flame are in-folded  
Into the crowned knot of fire  
And the fire and the rose are one.

**The Gloria:***St. Ann's Mass by Bolduc*

***Glory! Glory to God in the highest.  
Glory! Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.***

*We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
O God, heavenly One, O God, our creator. (R)*

*O Jesus Christ, only begotten One,  
O Christ, Incarnate Love, Child of the Cosmos,  
you take away the pain of the world, bring healing to us;  
you take away the pain of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Creator, bring healing to us. (R)*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Christ,  
you alone are the Healer, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, the glory of God Creator, (R)*

**A Reading from the Book of Revelation 21:1-6**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, adorned and prepared as one ready for a wedding day. I heard a loud voice calling: "See, the home of God is among human beings, God will dwell among them, and they shall be God's people: God is with them, Emmanuel! God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. Mourning and sadness and pain will be no more. The old order, the world of the past, is gone." Then the One who is seated on high said, "See I am making all things new. Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and sure. It is completed! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To all who are thirsty, I will give water from the well-spring of life as a gift.

The Word of First Century Visionary.

***Thanks be to God***

***Moment of Silence*****Gospel Acclamation**

*St Ann's Mass*

***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia***

***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia (2x)***

**Gospel**

Our God is with you. ***And also with you.***

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew.

***Glory to You, O God.***

After the Sabbath, as the first light of day was breaking, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake. An angel of God, descending from the skies, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel had an appearance like lightning, with clothing white as snow. In fear, the guards shook and looked dead. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has been raised, as was foretold. Come, see the place where he lay. Then, go quickly and tell the disciples, 'Christ has been raised from the dead, and is indeed going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see the Christ again.' This is my message for you."

The Gospel of the Resurrection.

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



**Repeat Gospel Acclamation**

*St Ann's Mass*

***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia***

***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia (2x)***

**Homily**

**Remembering our Baptism: Blessing of Water**

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Assembly response: We do.*

**Sprinkling of the Assembly & Litany of the Saints**

**Cantor:** God have mercy.  
Christ have mercy.  
God have mercy.

**All:** God have mercy.  
All have mercy.  
God have mercy.

***Cantor:***

*Angels and archangels,  
Abraham and Sarah  
Isaac and Rebecca  
Jacob, Leah and Rachel  
Moses and Miriam,  
Deborah, Judith and Samuel,  
Ruth, David and Solomon,  
Isaiah, Jeremiah,*

***All: Pray for us.***

***ALL: All you holy people pray for us.***

*Elizabeth, Zechariah  
Mary and Joseph,  
Mary Magdalene Apostle  
Peter, Andrew, James and John,  
Martha, Mary and Lazarus,  
Susanna and Joanna  
Paul, Barnabas, Veronica  
Stephen, Lydia, and Philip*

***All: Pray for us.***

***ALL: All you holy people pray for us.***

*Scholastica, Benedict,  
Bridget and Patrick*

***All: Pray for us.***

*Theodora Episcopa,  
Hildegard and Julian,  
Clare, Francis, Joan of Arc  
Catherine of Siena,  
Teresa of Avila,  
John of the Cross and Ignatius*  
***ALL: All you holy people pray for us.***

*Therese of Lisieux  
John XXIII and Bernadette  
Dorothy Stang, Oscar Romero,  
Ita, Maura, Dorothy, Jean  
Rosa Parks and Dorothy Day,  
Martin and Correta,  
Richard G. Hunthausen  
Rosemary Radford Ruether,*  
***ALL: All you holy people pray for us.***

***All: Pray for us.***

*God, give new life.  
Show forth your Spirit  
In its fullness  
In all your people  
Guide us in your peace  
Lead us in justice  
Sustain us in your presence  
As you remain with us always*  
***ALL: Christ, hear us. Christ Jesus, hear our prayer***

***All: Hear our Prayer***

**Offertory Song:** *Christ in Me Arise*

*Trevor Thomson*

***Christ in us arise and dispel fear and chaos.  
Christ in us arise with your courage and your grace.  
Christ in us pour out your blessing and healing.  
Christ in us arise and we shall rise with you.***

Be now our vision; open these eyes, showing us all that we must see.  
Onward to the kin-dom, you are the way.  
Arise in us and we shall rise in you. **R**

Be now our footsteps, leading the way, taking us where we must go.

Onward to the kin-dom you are the way.  
Arise in us and we shall rise in you. **R**

You know our heart and you know our ways, you who formed us in our mother's womb. We live and move in you, our whole being thrives in you. **R**

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **Preparation of the Bread and Wine**

Blessed are You, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

***Blessed be God forever.***

Blessed are You, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

***Blessed be God forever.***

Friends, pray that sharing this bread and wine will deepen our commitment to live the Gospel.

***With the Risen Christ we commit ourselves to live the Gospel.***

### **Prayer Over the Gifts**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer**

God dwells in you.

***And also in you.***

Come to the table with thankful hearts.

***We open our hearts to God and to one another.***

#### **Presider**

Holy One, Blessed are you and all Creation: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, stars, the planets in their courses and this fragile earth, our island home. You are unceasingly at work, bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with life. Your love restores our broken world. Your Chosen One, Jesus the Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. Your Spirit dwells within us and Your breath warms our hearts to love as You do. And so we join with all of creation, on earth and throughout the cosmos, and with all those in every generation who have looked to You in hope, in singing this unending song of praise:

**Sanctus** [sung]

*Mass of St. Ann, Bolduc*

***Holy, holy, holy, O God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed are all who come in Your Name, Holy God.  
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.***

**Voice 1:** In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery shone clear that life in You transcends death. We give You thanks for Jesus and for all who have taught and shown us selfless love. May we follow Jesus' example. May we love our neighbors and our enemies as ourselves. May we give Your Spirit freedom to act in us to transform ourselves and our world.

**Voice 2:** Jesus renewed the promise of his presence, making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishermen on the shore. On the night before he died, he gathered with his friends to share a final Passover meal.

***Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the bread and wine.***

**Presider:** We recognize Your Spirit alive and at work in this bread and wine, and in us. We open ourselves to Your Spirit who sanctifies and transforms these gifts to become You in us, the body and blood of Christ. We remember that...

**All:** ... *On the night of his betrayal, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying: "This is my body. Do this in memory of me."*

***[Pause]***

***In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with wine.  
He gave You thanks, and gave the cup to his friends, saying:  
"Take this all of you and drink. This is my life-blood; the cup of Love. Do this in memory of me."***

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: [Sung]

*Mass of St. Ann*

***We proclaim your death, O Christ, and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again, until you come again.***

**Voice 1:** Let Your Spirit also come upon all leaders secular and religious. Catch all of them by surprise. Fill their hearts with a longing for equality and justice. Imbue them with the joy of divine diversity. Bestow on them the wealth of humble service to others. Make them faithful servants of the body of Christ.

**Voice 2:** We remember everyone who has touched our lives with the Spirit of Your love. Be with all who are sick and all who suffer. Be with all who have died and gone before us into the fullness of cosmic life with You.

**Presider:** Gather together people of every gender, race, language, religion and way of life to share in Your one unending banquet. In Your presence, we give You glory with all creation and with Jesus through whom Your goodness flows.

***Through Christ, may all creation unfold;  
With Christ, may all creation be one;  
In Christ, may all divisions be healed;  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
may all glory and honor be Yours, forever and ever:***

**The Great Amen**  
***A-men, a-men, a-men. A-men, a-men, a-men.***

Mass of St Ann

**The Prayer of Jesus [Recited]**

*The prayer often called the "Our Father" has been translated and rendered in many ways over the last 2,000 years. We invite you join us in this contemporary version:*

***Loving God in whom is heaven,  
may your name be honored everywhere.  
May Your kin-dom come,  
May the desire of your heart for the world  
be done in us, by us, and through us.  
Give us the bread we need for each day;  
forgive us, enable us to forgive others.  
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.  
For you reign in the power which comes from Love  
which is your glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

### **The Sign of Peace**

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us offer one another – and the whole world - a sign of peace.

**Lamb of God** [Sung]

*Mass of St. Ann*

***Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of hope, O Jesus the Christ.***

***Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of love, O Jesus the Christ.***

***Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of peace, Grant us peace.***

### **Presider:**

This is the Bread of the Resurrection, the Wine of New Life. Blessed are we to share in the Mystery of Life.

***When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we are raised up into new life.***

At Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community, we believe this is God's table, not ours; and all are welcome at this table. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey, you are invited to this feast. If you feel called to receive the gluten-free Eucharistic bread and the consecrated red wine or white grape juice, please come forward.

We acknowledge that our liturgies are hybrid. Whenever and wherever we gather, we are Church and God is with us.

May all who share in this communion be united in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. Come, for God's table is ready!

### **Communion Songs:**

**Communion Meditation:** *"You Raise Me Up"* by Josh Groban

*"We Shall Rise Again"*

Jeremy Young, Lyrics: Young & Via

Come to me all you weary with your burdens and pain.  
Take my yoke on your shoulders and learn from me.  
I am gentle and humble. And your heart will find rest.  
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

***We shall rise again, on the last day, with the faithful, rich and poor.  
Coming to the house of our God in love, we will find an open door, yes,***

***we will find an open door.***

From the tomb, I am raised. Life renewed, God's acclaim.

Alleluia, alleluia, I live, I walk again.

I call you to walk with me, send you on ahead.

Spread the news, I am living and death is now dead. **(R)**

Hymns of praise let us sing now. With our song, we rejoice.

I the Christ am with you, God's Messiah, God's choice.

I am with you always, till the end of time.

You shall be my disciples, sharing God's life divine. **(R)**

**Prayer after Communion:**

**Closing Blessing**

**Closing Song – *Roll Away the Stone***

*Conryn*

***Roll away the stone, see the glory of God. Roll away the stone. (2x)***

They have been saying all our plans are empty.

They have been saying "Where is their God now?" **R**

They have been saying no one will remember.

They have been saying power rules the world. **R**

They have been saying no one hears the singing.

They have been saying all our strength is gone. **R**

They have been saying "All of us are dying."

They have been saying "All of us are dead." **R**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you for joining us for worship this evening.*

*At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. Financial support is essential to breathe life into this dream and to keep it alive for future generations. To underscore our commitment, we seek to support a full-time paid woman priest and a variety of social justice activities, giving a percentage of our Sunday offering back to the community. To support our community, please visit <http://www.mmacc.org/donate>.*



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