

Easter Vigil

Invocation

I In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

I In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His Word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Flood

Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

I A reading from Genesis, chapters seven, eight, and nine.

^{7:1}Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, ³and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. . . .

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. . . .

^{8:6}At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the

ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

¹³In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. ¹⁴In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. ¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶"Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. . . .

^{9:8}Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"Behold, I establish My covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L Let us pray.

O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ's Body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Litany of the Resurrection

L O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

L O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

L O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C hear us.
L Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C have mercy on us.
L Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C have mercy on us.
L Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"
C have mercy on us.
L Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
C have mercy on us.
L Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
C have mercy on us.
L Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
C have mercy on us.
L Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
C have mercy on us.
L Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
C have mercy on us.
L Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
C have mercy on us.
L Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
C have mercy on us.
L Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,
C have mercy on us.
L Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
C have mercy on us.
L By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
C good Lord, deliver us.
L By Your victory over sin and death,
C good Lord, deliver us.
L By the majesty of Your risen body,
C good Lord, deliver us.
L We poor sinners implore You
C to hear us, Lord Jesus.
L That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
C grant us, good Lord.
L That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,
C grant us, good Lord.
L That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,
C grant us, good Lord.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **grant us Your peace.**
L O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
L O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
L O Lord,
C **have mercy. Amen.**

Concluding Collect

L Lord Jesus Christ, You fulfilled the Sabbath by resting in the tomb on Holy Saturday and then proclaimed victory over Satan during Your descent into hell. At the hour when our eyes rest in death, may we find consolation in Your perfect fulfillment of God's Law and mighty defeat of sin, death, and the devil and look forward to seeing You face to face in the resurrection; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. **C** **Amen.**