

Easter Vigil

Invocation

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

C Amen.

L 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 Testing of Abraham

Genesis 22:1–18

L A reading from Genesis, chapter twenty-two.

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L Let us pray.

O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; 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.**