

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 Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1–14

L A reading from Ezekiel, chapter thirty-seven.

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And He led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O My people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O My people. ¹⁴And I will put My Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L Let us pray.

O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam's children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; 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.**