

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 Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1–30

L A reading from Daniel, chapter three.

¹King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. ¹¹And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king.

¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach,

and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²²Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." ²⁵He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

²⁶Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. ²⁸Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants, who trusted in Him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for

there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.”³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L Let us pray.

O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. **C Amen.**