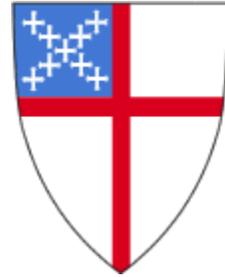


The Lessons Appointed for Use on
The Great Vigil of Easter

Year A
RCL

April 11, 2020



The Collect of The Day

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Story of Creation Narrative

The Old Testament

Genesis 1

Reader 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Before that there was only empty darkness and the deep eternal waters.
But in the dark a wind began to stir.
It was the breath of life.
It was God saying, “Let there be light.”
And there was light.
God saw that it was good.
There was a time for light and a time for darkness.
The light was called day and the darkness night.
And there was evening and morning, creation’s first day.

Reader 2

On the second day the storm kept stirring.
It was the wind of new beginnings.
God was saying, “Let there be a space for creation.”
And the wind carved out a hollow in the deep waters.
It was a cradle for life.
Above, beneath, and on every side of it were the everlasting waters.
God saw that it was good.

It was a place for birth and abundance.
And there was evening and morning, creation's second day.

Reader 1

On the third day God said, "Let the firm earth appear."
So the wind gathered together the waters of life.
The waters were oceans, and the dry land was earth.
The wind blew over its dark soil.
Earth grew green.
Flowers in their freshness opened.
Color and goodness burst forth from the earth.
Young bushes budded.
Trees were heavy with fruit, and earth's seed was strong.
God saw that it was good.
And there was evening and morning, creation's third day.

Reader 2

On the fourth day God said, "Let there be lights in the heavens."
So the wind carried fire on its wings and scattered light through the skies.
There was a great light to rule the day and a gentler light to rule the night.
And there were glittering galaxies beyond number.
The sun, the moon and the stars moved in harmony.
They guided the seasons.
They marked the days and the years.
They shone on earth as signs of heaven.
God saw that it was good.
And there was evening and morning, creation's fourth day.

Reader 1

On the fifth day God said, "Let the waters bring forth living creatures."
So the wind awakened the waters into life.
Great sea-monsters were born.
Gleaming fish swarmed the seas.
Winged birds of every kind rose out of the waters.
Creeping things crawled from the sea.
Wild animals ran free.
And cattle roamed the grasslands.
God saw that it was good.
Earth was alive with its creatures.
And there was evening and morning, creation's fifth day.

Reader 2

On the sixth day God said, "Let us make human kind in our image."
So the wind grew strong over the swelling sea, and from the moist earth humanity was
born.
Spirit and flesh were formed in the likeness of God.
Male and female came forth together.
And the words of heaven were spoken on earth, "Be fruitful and multiply.
The earth is yours, and you are the earth's, the seeds, the seas, the creatures,
everything that has breath and every plant that grows.
Be strong in my likeness and guard the unity of life."
God saw all that had been created and it was very good.
The relationship of earth and woman and man had begun.
And there was evening and morning, creation's sixth day.

Reader 1 and 2, alternating lines

On the seventh day there was silence in heaven.
The mighty wind of life was still.
The sea was calm.
The morning stars glistened.
The earth slept.
The work was finished.
Creation had been born.
And the Mother of all things rested.
It was a holy day.
The heavens and the earth were well.

Reader 1 and 2, in unison

God saw its fullness.
And there was evening and morning, creation's seventh day.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of
human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to
share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

The Old Testament

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that

had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The valley of dry bones

The Old Testament

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on 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."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and

breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

At the Eucharist

The Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Psalm

Psalm 114 Page 756, BCP

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel his dominion.
The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back.
The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.
What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you turned back?
You mountains, that you skipped like rams?
you little hills like young sheep?
Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

The Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."