This is the night when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell and rose victorious from the grave.
ABOUT THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

The Great Vigil of Easter is the most significant liturgy of the Christian year and is the culmination of the Triduum—the Sacred Three Days. The service begins in total darkness. The Cathedral is slowly illuminated by the candles of the faithful as we observe the Paschal Mystery—the passage from darkness into light, from death into life—told through ancient texts, scriptural readings, and sacred music, telling of God’s saving actions through history. Into this story, we welcome those who are to be baptized into the household of God, as we who witness this Sacrament reaffirm our own baptismal vows. The great moment of this night is the celebration of the First Eucharist of the Resurrection, gloriously announced with Alleluias. The Paschal Candle burns as a sign of the presence of the resurrected Christ and will burn throughout the Easter season, known as the Great Fifty Days.
The Service of Light

The Lighting and Blessing of the New Fire

At the appointed hour, all stand and face the west end of the nave. In the darkness, the Paschal Fire is kindled. Bishop Mariann addresses the people, and the people respond, Amen.

The Blessing and Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Making the sign of the cross and inserting grains of incense, Bishop Mariann blesses the Paschal Candle and the people respond, Amen. The Paschal Candle is lighted from the newly-kindled fire. The procession moves through the darkened Cathedral by the light of the Paschal Candle. In the course of the procession the people’s candles are lit.

The procession pauses three times and at each pause the following is sung three times, successively higher:

Cantor

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet: The Proclamation of Easter

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King. Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people. All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God . . .

Cantor

... for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Cantor

The Lord be with you.

People

And al - so with you.
It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam’s sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people. This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land. This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave. How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son. How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God. Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns . . .

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Bp Mariann  Let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

THE FIRST LESSON

THE CREATION

paraphrase of Genesis 1:1-2:2; James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

PSALM 136:1-9; 23-26

Michael McCarthy (b. 1966)

Cantor

Give thanks to the Holy One, for he is good, for God’s mercy endures for ever.

Cantor  Give thanks to the God of gods,
People  for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor  Give thanks to the Lord of Lords,
People  for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor  Who only does great wonders,
People  for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor  Who by wisdom made the heavens,
People  for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor  Who spread out the earth upon the waters,
People for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor Who created great lights,
People for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor The sun to rule the day,
People for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor Who remembered us in our low estate,
People for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor And delivered us from our enemies,
People for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor Who gives food to all creatures,
People for God’s mercy endures for ever.
Cantor Give thanks to the God of heaven,
People for God’s mercy endures for ever.

THE COLLECT

Leader 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.
People Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON

The Deliverance of Israel at the Red Sea

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

The people stand.

HYMN

Go down, Moses

arr. Andrew K. Barnett (b. 1984)

The choir sings verse 1, and the people join on verses 2-4.

When Israel was in Egypt land. “Let my people go!” Oppressed so hard they could not stand.
“Let my people go!” Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land. Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.

Cantor 2. The Lord told Moses what to do. “Let my people go!”

3. They journeyed on at this command.
4. Oh let us all from bondage flee.

Cantor 2. To lead the children of Israel through. “Let my people go!”

3. And came at length to Canaan’s land.
4. And let us all in Christ be free.

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land.

Tell old Pharaoh to “Let my people go!” go!
THE COLLECT

Leader  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.

People  Amen.

The people are seated.

THE THIRD LESSON

The Valley of the Dry Bones  Ezekiel 37:1-14

PSALM 143:7-10

A. K. Barnett

The leader introduces the refrain, then all repeat.

Hurry with your answer, God!
I’m nearly at the end of my rope.
Don’t turn away; don’t ignore me!
That would be certain death.
If you wake me each morning with the sound of your voice,
I’ll go to sleep each night trusting in you.
Point out the road I must travel;
I’m all ears, all eyes before you.  All sing refrain

Save me from my enemies, God—
you’re my only hope!
Teach me how to live according to your ways
Lead me by your life-giving Spirit
into clear and level pastureland.  All sing refrain
(The Message by Eugene Peterson)

THE COLLECT

Leader  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.

People  Amen.

THE FOURTH LESSON

The Gathering of God’s People  Zephaniah 3:14-20
Sing to the Lord a brand new song for this wide world of wonder! The Lord has made known his victory; His righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the Earth have seen the victory of our God.

All sing refrain

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the Lord. Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord.

All sing refrain

THE COLLECT

Bp Mariann  O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People  Amen.

HOLY BAPTISM AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The people remain seated as the candidates for Holy Baptism are presented.

THE PRESENTATION & EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates are presented and Bishop Mariann questions the candidates and sponsors about the desire and readiness to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The bishop invites the people to stand.

Bp Mariann  Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended to renew with these persons about to be baptized the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all evil works, and promise to serve God faithfully in the holy catholic Church.
THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Bp Mariann  Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
People       I do.

Bp Mariann  Do you believe in God the Father?
People       I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bp Mariann  Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People       I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bp Mariann  Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People       I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Bp Mariann  Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People       I will, with God's help.

Bp Mariann  Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People       I will, with God's help.

Bp Mariann  Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People       I will, with God's help.

Bp Mariann  Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People       I will, with God's help.

Bp Mariann  Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People       I will, with God's help.

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

Bp Mariann  Let us now pray for those who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Intercessor  Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People       Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor  Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People       Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor  Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People       Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor  Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People       Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor  Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People       Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor  Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People       Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor  Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People       Lord, hear our prayer.

Bp Mariann  Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever.
All         Amen.
The ministers, candidates and sponsors move to the baptismal font at the mid nave.

THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Bp Mariann The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Bp Mariann Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The bishop prays over the water. The people affirm the prayer with Amen.

THE BAPTISM

Bishop Mariann baptizes the candidates, marks the sign of the cross on their foreheads, and presents them with lighted candles. After each action, the people respond, Amen.

Once the baptisms are concluded, Bishop Mariann prays over the candidates:

Bp Mariann Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

People Amen.

Bp Mariann Let us welcome the newly baptized.
People We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The people remain standing as the ministers sprinkle them with blessed water, a sign of the renewal of their baptismal covenant.

ANTHEM AT THE ASPERGES

As I went down to the River to pray arr. Lena Seikaly (b. 1986)

As I went down to the River to pray, studying about that good old day and who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord show me the way. Oh brothers let’s go down, let’s go down don’t ya wanna go down. Come on brothers let’s go down. Down in the river to pray. Oh Sisters….Oh Mothers…Oh Fathers… (African American spiritual)

THE ACCLAMATION OF THE RESURRECTION Said three times.

Bp Mariann Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The sounding of a fanfare announces the Resurrection, as the people remain standing, ringing bells and singing:

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO William Mathias (1934-1992)

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
THE COLLECT OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

*Bp Mariann*  The Lord be with you.

*People*  And also with you.

*Bp Mariann*  O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord’s resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*The people are seated.*
**THE EPISTLE**

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

**THE GREAT ALLELUIA**

Leon C. Roberts (1950-1999)


**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 28:1-10

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of 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.”


*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of Dean Hollerith.

**SERMON**

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith

The people stand.

**THE PEACE**

*Bp Mariann* The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God’s peace and are seated.
THE OFFERTORY
The people remain seated while an offering is received to support the Cathedral’s ministry of sharing God’s love with the world.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY
Alleluia

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

The people stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION
Now the green blade riseth

Noël nowelet

1. Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
2. In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
3. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
think that never he would wake again,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain

Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.
THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

_Bp Mariann_ The Lord be with you.
_People_ And also with you.
_Bp Mariann_ Lift up your hearts.
_People_ We lift them to the Lord.
_Bp Mariann_ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
_People_ It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The bishop offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ, and in response we sing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS  
W. Mathias

The bishop gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ’s passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

_Bp Mariann_ Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
_People_ Christ has died.
_People_ Christ is risen.
_People_ Christ will come again.

_Bp Mariann_ We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

_People_ AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

_People_ Notre Père..., Padre nostro..., Vater unser...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Douglas Major (b. 1953)

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

The people are seated.

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine from the chalice, guiding it gently to your lips; or you may dip the wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Respond to receiving Communion by saying “Amen.” If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest.

ANTHEM AT THE COMMUNION

Antiphon

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing: my God and King.
The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither flie;
The earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.
The Church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out;
But above all, the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing: my God and King.

(George Herbert, 1593–1633)

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION

Taste and see

James E. Moore, Jr. (b. 1951)

I will bless the Lord at all times.
Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord
for God has been so good to me.

All sing refrain

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise God’s name.
I called the Lord who answered me;
from all my troubles I was set free.

All sing refrain
Worship the Lord, all you people.  
You'll want for nothing if you ask.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
in God we need put all our trust.  

*All sing refrain*

The people stand.

**THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER**

*All*  
Lord God our Father, through our Savior Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**THE BLESSING OF EASTER**

Bishop Mariann blesses the people, and the people respond, Amen.

The people are invited to ring bells throughout the closing hymn.

**HYMN AT THE CLOSING**

*At the Lamb’s high feast we sing*

\[Salzburg\]

1. At the Lamb’s high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,  
2. Where the Paschal blood is poured, death’s dark angel sheathes his sword;  
3. Mighty victim from on high, hell’s fierce powers beneath thee lie;  
4. Easter triumph, Easter joy, these alone do sin destroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side;  
Israel’s hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Thou hast conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light.  
From sin’s power do thou set free souls new-born, O Lord in thee.

Praise we him, whose love divine gives his sacred Blood for wine,  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, Paschal bread;  
Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;  
Hymns of glory, songs of praise, Father, unto thee we raise:

gives his Body for the feast, Christ the victim, Christ the priest.  
with sincerity and love eat we manna from above.  
thou hast opened paradise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.  
risen Lord, all praise to thee with the Spirit ever be.
THE DISMISSAL

Gospeller We are raised to new life with Christ.
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Final, from Symphony 1
Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

A gift in support of this celebration of the Resurrection is made to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the William Carter Dulin and Maurine Stuart Dulin families.

EASTER DAY ORGAN RECITAL

2:00 PM
Benjamin Pearce Straley, Washington National Cathedral Organist
George Fergus, Association of Anglican Musicians Gerre Hancock Fellow in Church Music

EASTER DAY FESTIVE CHORAL EVENSONG

4:00 PM
Sung by the Girls Cathedral Choir
CLERGY

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington
The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith, Dean
The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope, Provost
The Reverend Canon Kelly Brown Douglas, Canon Theologian
The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan, Canon for Worship

READERS

Tanya Aquino
Lucinda Conger
Duane Gelderloos
Paula B. Mays
Dr. Torrence N. Thomas

MUSICIANS

Cathedral Singers
Canon Michael McCarthy, Director of Music
Benjamin Pearce Straley, Associate Director of Music and Organist
George Fergus, Association of Anglican Musicians Gerre Hancock Fellow in Church Music

Mark Prince, drums
Marshall Keys, saxophones
Zack Pride, bass
Lena Seikaly and Imani-Grace Cooper, vocals
The Reverend Andrew K. Barnett, piano

Washington Symphonic Brass
Phil Snedecor, trumpet
Mike Mergan, trumpet
Chandra Cervantes, horn
Lee Rogers, trombone
Seth Horner, tuba
Mark Latimer, timpani
VERGERS

Dr. Torrence N. Thomas, *Head Cathedral Verger*
Kevin R. Thomas, *Cathedral Verger*
Gary Abrecht
Joyce Michelini
Verne Rinker
Scott Sanders
Steve Saphos
Lynne Mallonee Schlimm

ACOLYTES

Caroline Kim, *Head Acolyte*
Noah Donoghue, *Assistant Head Acolyte*
Guyton Harvey, II, *Assistant Head Acolyte*
Shannon Ayres
Lilly Freemyer
Alexandra Hohenlohe
Dan Huynh
Caroline Schuermann
Robert Shekoyan

USHERS

The Cathedral Ushers
Valerie Ciccone, *Head Usher*
Angela Wilson, *Deputy Head Usher*
FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE CATHEDRAL ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.