

# Saint Thomas's Church

## Christ our Passover

### Solemn Liturgical Observance of the Paschal Triduum



*The Harrowing of Hell: Christ raises Adam and Eve from their tombs*  
Anástasis de San Salvador de Cora, Constantinopla (1305-1320)

## Easter Vigil Readings

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*After a brief homily, the Celebrant introduces the readings:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his own Son to be our Redeemer; and, as we await the dawn of Easter, let us pray that God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

### 1. GENESIS 1 - 2.4A

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creatures that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion

over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created.

PSALM 136.1-9, 23-26

- 1 O GIVE thanks unto the LORD, for he is **gra-cious** : and his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.
- 2 O give thanks unto the God of **all** gods : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.
- 3 O thank the Lord of **all** lords : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.
- 4 Who only doeth great **won-ders** : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.
- 5 Who by his excellent wisdom made the **hea-vens** : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.
- 6 Who laid out the earth above the **wa-ters** : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.
- 7 Who hath made great **lights** : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er;
- 8 The sun to rule the **day** : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er;
- 9 The moon and the stars to govern the **night** : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.
- 23 Who rememberèd us when we were in **trou-ble** : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er;
- 24 And hath deliverèd us from our **en-e-mies** : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.
- 25 Who giveth food to **all** flesh : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.
- 26 O give thanks unto the God of **hea-ven** : for his mercy endure**th** for ev-er.

*Silence followed by Collect*

Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation, by which in the fullness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## 2. GENESIS 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in. And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark. And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.

And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried. And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

## PSALM 46

- 1 GOD is our hope and strength, / a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be changed, /  
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell, /  
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; / the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 5 THERE is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God, /  
the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be moved; /  
God shall help her, and that right early.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved; /  
but God uttereth his voice, and the earth doth melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; / the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 9 O COME hither, and behold the works of the LORD, /  
what wonders he hath wrought upon the earth.
- 10 He maketh wars to cease in all the world; /  
he breaketh the bow, and snappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.
- 11 Be still then, and know that I am God; /  
I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be exalted in the earth.
- 12 The LORD of hosts is with us; / the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Silence, followed by Collect*

Faithful God, you have placed the rainbow in the skies as the sign of your covenant with all living things. May we who are saved through water and the Spirit, worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### 3. GENESIS 22.1-2,9-13,15-18

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

PSALM 16.6, 9-12

- 6 THE LORD himself is the portion of mine inheritance and of **my** cup :  
thou **shalt** main-täin my lot.
- 9 I have set the Lord always be-**fore** me : for he is on my right hand, there-**fore** I shall not fall.
- 10 Wherefore my heart is glad, and my glory re-**joic**-eth : my flesh also shall **dwell** in säfe-ty.
- 11 For why? thou wilt not leave my soul **to** hell :  
neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to **see** cor-rüp-tion.
- 12 Thou shalt show me the path of life; in thy presence is the fullness **of** joy :  
and at thy right hand there are plea-**sure**s for ëv-er-more.

*Silence, followed by Collect*

God and Father of all who believe in you, you promised Abraham that he would become the father of all nations, and through the death and resurrection of Christ you fulfil that promise; everywhere throughout the world you increase your chosen people. May we respond to your call by joyfully accepting your invitation to the new life of grace. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

4. EXODUS 14.10 —15.1A

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses. Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD:

THE SONG OF MOSES (EXODUS 15.1B-6, 11-13, 17-18)

- 1 I WILL SING unto the LORD, for he hath triumphéd glo-**rious**-ly : the horse and the rider hath he **thrown** in-tö the sea.
- 2 The LORD is my strength and my song, and he is become my sal-**va**-tion : he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I **will** ex-ält him.
- 3 The LORD is a man **of** war : the **LORD** is his name.
- 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into **the** sea : his chosen captains also are drownéd **in** the Röd Sea.
- 5 The depths have cover-**ed** them : they sank into the **bot**-tom äs a stone.
- 6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious **in** power : thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashéd in pie-**ces** the ën-e-my.
- 11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among **the** gods? : who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, **do**-ing wönders?
- 12 Thou stretchedst out thy **right** hand : the earth **swal**-low-éd them.
- 13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast re-deem-ed : thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy **ha**-bi-tä-tion.
- 17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inhe-**ri**-tance : in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in; in the Sanctuary, O LORD, which thy hands **have** es-täb-lish-ed.
- 18 The LORD **shall** reign : for ev-**er** and ëv-er.

*Silence, followed by Collect*

God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered 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. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## 5. ISAIAH 54.5-14

For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee. O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

## PSALM 30

- 1 I WILL magnify thee, O LORD, for thou hast set me up, /  
and not made my foes to triumph over me.
- 2 O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, /  
and thou hast healed me.
- 3 Thou, LORD, hast brought up my soul from hell: /  
thou hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit.
- 4 SING praises unto the LORD, O ye saints of his; /  
and give thanks unto his holy Name.
- 5 For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye, and in his favour is life; /  
heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.
- 6 As for me, in my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved'; /  
thou, LORD, of thy goodness hadst made my hill so strong.
- 7 But thou didst turn thy face from me, /  
and I was troubled.
- 8 Then cried I unto thee, O LORD, /  
and gat me to my Lord right humbly:
- 9 'What profit is there in my blood, /  
when I go down to the pit?
- 10 Shall the dust give thanks unto thee? /  
or shall it declare thy truth?
- 11 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; /  
LORD, be thou my helper.'
- 12 THOU hast turned my heaviness into joy; /  
thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;
- 13 That my soul may sing of thy praise without ceasing. /  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.



*Silence, followed by Collect*

O God, you led your ancient people in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Grant that we who serve you now on earth, may come to the joy of that heavenly Jerusalem, where you wipe away all tears, and where your saints for ever sing your praise. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

6. PROVERBS 8.1-8, 19-21; 9.4B-6

Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

PSALM 19

- 1 THE heavens declare the glory of God; /  
and the firmament showeth his handy-work.
- 2 One day telleth another; /  
and one night certifieth another.
- 3 There is neither speech nor language; /  
their voice cannot be heard;
- 4 Yet their sound is gone out into all lands; /  
and their words into the ends of the world.
- 5 IN them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun; /  
which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber,  
and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.
- 6 It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven, and runneth about  
unto the end of it again; /  
and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
- 7 THE law of the LORD is an undefiled law, restoring the soul; /  
the testimony of the LORD is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.
- 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, and rejoice the heart; /  
the commandment of the LORD is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, and endureth for ever; /  
the judgements of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; /  
sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is thy servant taught; /  
and in keeping of them there is great reward.

- 12 Who can tell how oft he offendeth? /  
O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.
- 13 Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me; /  
so shall I be undefiled and innocent from the great offence.
- 14 LET the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,  
be alway acceptable in thy sight, /  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

*Silence, followed by Collect*

Creator of the universe, Source of all light, teach us to hold fast to the ways of wisdom, that we may live for ever in the radiance of your glory. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

7. EZEKIEL 36.24-28

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

PSALM 42

- 1 LIKE as the hart desireth the water-rooms, /  
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God: /  
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, /  
while all day long they say unto me, 'Where is now thy God?'
- 4 These things will I remember as I pour out my soul within me: /  
how I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of God,
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, /  
a multitude keeping holy-day.
- 6 Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul? /  
and why art thou so disquieted within me?
- 7 O put thy trust in God, for I will yet give him thanks, /  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.
- 8 My soul is vexed within me; therefore will I remember thee /  
from the land of Jordan, from Hermon, and the Little Hill.
- 9 One deep calleth another, because of the noise of thy torrents; /  
all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.
- 10 The LORD will grant his loving-kindness in the day-time; /  
and in the night-season will I sing of him, and make my prayer unto the God of my life.

- 11 I will say unto God my rock, 'Why hast thou forgotten me? /  
why go I thus heavily, while the enemy oppresseth me?'
- 12 My bones are smitten asunder, while mine enemies reproach me, /  
while they say daily unto me, 'Where is now thy God?'
- 13 Why art thou so vexed, O my soul? /  
and why art thou so disquieted within me?
- 14 put thy trust in God, for I will yet give him thanks, /  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

*Silence, followed by Collect*

Almighty and everlasting God, in the paschal mystery you established the new covenant of reconciliation. Grant that all who are born again in baptism may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

#### 8. ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

#### PSALM 98

- 1 O SING Unto the LORD a new song; /  
for he hath done marvellous things.
- 2 With his own right hand, and with his holy arm, /  
hath he gotten himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD hath declared his salvation: /  
his righteousness hath he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He hath remembered his mercy and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel; /  
and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 SHOW yourselves joyful unto the LORD, all ye lands: /  
sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
- 6 Praise the LORD upon the harp: /  
sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
- 7 With trumpets also and the sound of the horn, /  
O show yourselves joyful before the LORD, the King.
- 8 LET the sea make a noise, and all that is therein; /  
the round world, and they that dwell therein.

- 9 Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the LORD; /  
for he is come to judge the earth.
- 10 With righteousness shall he judge the world, /  
and the peoples with equity.

*Silence, followed by Collect*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery. By the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity 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. *Amen.*

#### 9. ROMANS 6:3-11

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### PSALM 114

- 1 WHEN Israel came out of Egypt, /  
and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,
- 2 Judah was his sanctuary, / and Israel his dominion.
- 3 THE sea saw that, and fled; / Jordan was driven back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, / and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 WHAT aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest, /  
and thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?
- 6 Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams, /  
and ye little hills, like young sheep?
- 7 TREMBLE, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord: /  
at the presence of the God of Jacob;
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a standing water, /  
and the flint-stone into a spring well.

*Silence, followed by Collect*

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*