The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

The Great Vigil of Easter begins in darkness.

As the procession advances, the assembly’s candles are lit.

Lu-men Chris-ti.

And all respond:

De-o grá-ti-as.

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Exsultet

The Lord be with you. And with your spir-it.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

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Reading I Gen 1:1-2:2

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." Thus evening came, and morning followed -- the first day. Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed--the second day. Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea." God saw how good it was.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed--the third day. Then God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars.

God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed -- the fourth day. Then God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky." And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth." Evening came, and morning followed--the fifth day. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed -- the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
The LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and chariopteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.”

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel’s camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians. Then the LORD told Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh’s whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Reading VII Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28

The word of the LORD came to me, saying: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefore I poured out my fury upon them because of the blood that they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols. I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations wherever they came, they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: "These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave their land." So I have relented because of my holy name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came. I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when in their sight I prove my holiness through you. For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 42

Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God; my soul longs for you, my God.

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God? R.  
I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God, amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving, with the multitude keeping festival. R.  
Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on and bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling-place. R.  
Then will I go in to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy; then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God! R.  

Glory to God (ALL)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God heavenly King, O God, almighty Father, Lord Jesus Christ.

Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen, amen, amen.
Gospel Acclamation

LK 24:1-12

At daybreak on the first day of the week the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, “Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day.” And they remembered his words. Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these things to the eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles, but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened.

Litany of the Saints

Repeat each invocation immediately after the priest or cantor:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Saint Invocation) 1-4. Pray for us. Pray for us.
("Lord, be merciful.") 5. Save your people. Save your people.
("Lord, give new life.") 6. Hear our prayer. Hear our prayer.

Pray for us. Pray for us. Pray for us.
Save your people. Save your people. Save your people.
Hear our prayer. Hear our prayer. Hear our prayer.

1-4. All you holy men and women, pray for us.
5-6. Christ, hear us; Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Text: Litany of the Saints. © 1972, ICEL.
Blessing of the Water

Baptism, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Sprinkling of blessed water.

Antiphon chant (choir)

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Preparation of the Altar and Gifts

Congregation & The Nativity Choir with Summit Hill Brass

All: 1. At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our vic-
    All: 2. Where the Pas-chal blood is poured, Death’s dark an-gel
    Choir: 3. Might-y vic-tim from the sky, Hell’s fierce pow’rs be-
    All: 4. Eas-ter tri-umph, Eas-ter joy! This a-lone can
    to-rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
    sheathes his sword; Is-rael’s hosts tri-um-phant go
    neath you lie; You have con-quered in the fight,
    sin de-stroy; From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,

Flow-ing from his pier-ced side. Praise him, whose
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Praise we Christ, whose
You have brought us life and light: Now no more can
New-born souls in you to be. Fa-ther, who the

love di-vine Gives his sac-red blood for wine, Gives his
blood was shed, Pas-chal vic-tim, Pas-chal bread; With sin-
death ap-pall, Now no more the grave en-thrall; You have
crown shall give, Sav-ior, by whose death we live, Spir-it,

bod- y for the feast Christ the vic-tim, Christ the priest.
cer-i-ty and love Eat we man-na from a-bove.
o-pened par-a-dise, And in you your saints shall rise.
guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise.

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Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna in the highest, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Mystery of Faith

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Amen

Amen, amen, amen.
Agnus Dei

This is the Feast of Victory

Recessional Hymn Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1. Jesus Christ is ris’n to-day, Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav’nly King, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he’s King, Alleluia!
Praise him, now his might confess, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Spirit blest, Alleluia!

Text: St. 1, Sumeris Christus嚎iae, Latin, 14th C.; para, in Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; st. 2, 3, The Complete Psalmody, c.1750, alt.; st. 4, Charles Wesley, 1787–1788
Tune: EASTER HYMN, 77 77 with alleluias; Lyra Davidica, 1708

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