



Crossings

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal
875 Cotton Street, Shreveport, Louisiana
April 5, 2023

Services

Please see calendar.

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The Great Vigil of Easter

This year, Holy Cross will be celebrating the Great Vigil of Easter at St. Paul's Episcopal Church along with our other friends in the convocation.

The Great Vigil of Easter dates back at least to the year 215, which is the earliest written record we have of it. It is, however, very likely as old as the Church itself, dating back to the era of the New Testament authors.

Liturgical scholar Marion Hatchet called this service "the keystone about which the rest of the church year is built." It is the primary festival of baptism. It is the principal feast of the Church. It is the first celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. It is the model of the Paschal Feast.

The service begins after sundown. And either outside or inside, depending on space and ability, a new fire is kindled. When this takes place inside the church, the symbolism of the light of Christ breaking into the tomb is sublime. After the fire is lit, the celebrant addresses the people: "On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death."

The Paschal Candle, which burns throughout the Easter Season and at every baptism and funeral, is lit and carried into the church. It stands as a symbol of the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire that guided the Hebrews through the desert. The church is dark. Only the paschal flame is there to illumine the darkness.

And once everyone is inside, by candlelight, the words are sung: "Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King." This ancient hymn of the Church is known as the Exultet. The Exultet dates to at least the sixth century, and the tradition of blessing the Paschal Candle is at least as old as Augustine.



Marion Hatchet writes, “Christ is praised as the Paschal Lamb who by his blood delivered his people as the Hebrews had been delivered from Egypt. The Easter feast is likened to the Exodus: as the children of Israel were brought out of bondage in Egypt, so those who believe in Christ are delivered from sin and restored to life. By the passover of Christ from death to life ‘earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.’”

My favorite line of the Exultet comes near the end. “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.”

We then will read a series of lessons, as the celebrant says, “Let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in ages past, and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.” What follows is at least four lessons, but sometimes more. Lessons such as the Exodus from Egypt or the Valley of Dry Bones show us how again and again God has stayed true to his word. And these lessons culminate in baptism, when new Christians make their promises and hear God’s promise declared to them.

And then, following the baptisms, the celebrant announces, “Alleluia, Christ is risen.” The people respond, “The Lord is risen indeed.” And the church erupts in celebration! The lights come on, the people shout Alleluia for the first time in forty days, the choir sings! The organ shouts! The trumpets shout! And the people sing a song of praise. My favorite is the *pascha nostrum*.

“Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the feast! Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. . . . For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.”

We then will hear the New Testament lessons and the gospel reading. A homily. And then celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter in joyous, festal celebration.

I know we are still making this new tradition, but when the Church put together the 1979 prayer book, we dreamed that this service would surpass Christmas Eve in popularity. Alas, it has not caught on in the Episcopal Church, but it is the principal Easter celebration for most of the world’s Christians. And last year, our attendance was spectacular at Holy Cross! By joining together in it, we are testifying to the truth of God’s command, that we all may be one.

So I hope you will join us in celebrating this incredible service with our friends from around the convocation.

The Rev. Garrett Boyte

Prayer List

James Adams	Jean Dooley	Robert Henley	Amanda Taylor
Ellen Dunlop Belote	Anne Fellers	Geoffrey Jenkins	The Taylor family
Margaret Boudreaux	Wes Gearhart	Peggy Kirkland and family	Robert Todd
Sarah Lou Brackman	John August Gianforte	Chloe Kyles	Louis Wallace
Mike Brown	Austin Gleason	Richard Liles	Connie Wiggins
Nikki Brown	Georgiana Gleason	Maureen Locke	Bill Wright
Jack Carlisle	James Griffith	Della McCranie	Mary Wright
Mike-y Carlisle	Loraine Guerrero	Jesse Paul	Sheryl Wright
Kyle Chandler	Michael Guerrero	Scott Porter	The people of Ukraine
Taryn Chandler	Richard Hadwin	Brady Sessions	Survivors of gun violence
Teresa Crow	Sandra Hadwin	Catherine Spaht	
The Drew Dodson family	Chris Harper	Paul Spaht	

We pray for those who serve and are served by The Philadelphia Center.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for St. Luke’s, Jennings, the Rev. John Clark (Phyllis); for Ascension, Lafayette, the Rev. Joseph Daly, the Rev. Deacon Honey Becker, the Rev. Jordan Hylden (Emily+); and for St. Barnabas, Lafayette, the Rev. Michael Bordelon (Lauren).

Calendar for April

Saturdays	Evening Prayer, Rite I	6:00 pm	Online
Sundays	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	9:00 am	Chapel
	Parish Choir rehearsal	9:45 am	Nave
	Children's Sunday School	10:30 am	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	11:00 am	Nave
Mondays, Tuesdays	Evening Prayer, Rite I	6:00 pm	Online
Wednesdays	Book Study	10:30 am	Library
	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	Noon	Chapel
	Evening Prayer, Rite I	6:00 pm	Nave and online
Thursdays, Fridays	Evening Prayer, Rite I	6:00 pm	Online
Holy Wednesday, April 5	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	Noon	Nave
Maundy Thursday, April 6	Foot-washing, shoe distribution	11:30 am	Hope House
	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	6:00 pm	Nave
Good Friday, April 7	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	Noon	Nave
	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	6:00 pm	Chapel
Holy Saturday, April 8	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	Noon	Chapel
	Easter Vigil	7:30 pm	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Easter Day	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	11:00 am	Nave
Saturday, April 15	Vestry retreat	10:00 am	Sibleyshire
Tuesday, April 18	Vestry meeting	6:00 pm	Library



Lay Ministries

Maundy Thursday: April 6, 2023, 6:00 pm

Lectors: Kirk Fontenot, Pembroke Roeder
Prayers of the People: Pembroke Roeder
Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Mahlen, Holly McIntyre
Acolyte: Chelsea Woodham
Ushers: Laura Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson
Altar Guild: Laura Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson

Good Friday: April 7, 2023, noon and 6:00 pm

Lectors, noon: Herschel Richard, Mike Wilkerson
Ushers, noon: Tommie Sue Brooks, Cheryl McBride
Lectors, 6:00: Holly McIntyre, Lucie Thornton
Ushers, 6:00: Carolyn Mahlen, Donna Neal

Easter Day: April 9, 2023

Lectors: Kirk Fontenot, Becky Snodgrass
Prayers of the People: Kirk Fontenot
Eucharistic Ministers: Herschel Richard, Steve Snodgrass
Acolyte: Steve Snodgrass
Ushers: Laura Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson
Altar Guild: Tommie Sue Brooks, Becky Snodgrass

The Second Sunday of Easter: April 16, 2023

Lectors: Pembroke Roeder, James Woodham
Prayers of the People: Melissa Fowle
Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Mahlen, Holly McIntyre
Acolyte: Becky Snodgrass
Ushers: Cheryl McBride, Donna Neal
Altar Guild: Laura Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson



Service Music

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023, 6:00 pm

- Mass:** Mozarabic and Anaphora Chant
Psalm 116: Simplified Anglican Chant—Robert Knox Kennedy
Anthem: *Ubi caritas*—Plainsong, mode VI
Hymns: 315 Song 1; 439 Wondrous Love; 458 Love Unknown; 104 Andujár
Organ: Wondrous Love: Variations on a Shape-Note Hymn—S. Barber

Good Friday: April 7, 2023, Noon and 6:00 pm

- Anthem:** *Stabat mater dolorosa*—Plainsong, mode VI
Hymns: 168 Passion Chorale; 166 Pange lingua

Easter Day: April 9, 2023

- Mass:** Mathias and James
Psalm 118: Response—St. Kevin; Plainsong, tone I.2
Anthems: Come, ye faithful—R. S. Thatcher; *Victimae paschali laudes*—attr. Wipo of Burgundy
Hymns: 207 Easter Hymn; 180 Unser Herrscher; 188 Savannah; 174 Salzburg; 210 Ellacombe
Organ: Prelude and Toccata on *Victimae paschali laudes*—Denis Bédard;
Paraphrase on a chorus from *Judas Maccabaeus*—G. F. Handel;
Here shining is the perfect day—J. S. Bach; Toccata from *Symphonie No. 5*—C. M. Widor

The Second Sunday of Easter: April 16, 2023

- Mass:** Mathias and James
Psalm 16: Response—Toplady; Plainsong, tone VIII.i
Hymns: 205 Gelobt sei Gott; 209 St. Botolph; 199 St. Kevin; 182 Truro
Organ: Gelobt sei Gott—Healey Willan; *O filii et filiae*—Benjamin Culli;
“I know that my redeemer liveth” from *Messiah*—G. F. Handel;
Toccata on *O filii et filiae*—Lynwood Famam

Music for the Triduum 2023

By Ben Gessner, Organist/Choirmaster

Maundy Thursday has a focal point of the Last Supper and the New Commandment. Appropriately, our first hymn bears the refrain: “may we all one bread, one body be/through this blest sacrament of unity.” Today’s anthem is one of the most well-known and beloved medieval plainsongs, *Ubi caritas*. The prelude is the last time the organ will be heard on its own until Easter Day. In keeping with the centrality of the *mandatum*, we will hear a work based on WONDROUS LOVE by American composer Samuel Barber (1910-1981).

Good Friday is an austere day. There will be three musical selections: two plainchants and one hymn. The first of these, sung by the choir, is *Stabat mater dolorosa*. This twelfth-century text depicts the crucifixion from the perspective of Mary, Mother of God. Originally, this was one of hundreds of proper sequence chant hymns in the Roman Church. But following the Counter-Reformation and Council of Trent in the mid-1500s, all but four sequences were anathemized (forbidden from use). *Stabat mater* was not one of these four, but it would be later reinstated in 1727 for optional use on the Marian Feast of the Seven Sorrows. The chant extolling the Cross is *Pange lingua gloriosi proelium certaminis*. It dates to the 500s, and for close-reading Prayer Book students, it is one of four hymns in the BCP that are specifically required or suggested (p. 282). The other three are for Palm Sunday (“All glory, laud, and honor,” cf. p. 271) and for Ordinations (*Veni Creator* or *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, cf. pp. 520, 533, 544). The text is paired to a chant found in a Sarum Hymnal of 1518. Finally, our selection before the Passion according to John is a quintessential passion hymn: “O sacred head.” Earlier in Holy Week, we will hear a pathos-filled organ setting by French composer Jean Langlais (1907-1991). This tune began its life in the early 1600s paired to a funeral hymn. The text we now associate with the tune is based on a Latin hymn of the 1200s.



The festal Easter Day prelude is a pair of pieces. First is a Prelude and Toccata by French-Canadian composer Denis Bédard (b. 1950), based on *Victimae paschali laudes*. This chant hymn is the proper sequence chant to Easter Day, dating to circa 1000 CE. The second piece is based on a chorus (“See, the conqu’ring hero comes!”) from *Judas Maccabaeus*, an oratorio by G. F. Handel (1685-1759); French Romantic organist Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911) composed the paraphrase. This tune is perhaps best known in English-speaking churches as “Thine is the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son.”

Our Gloria and Sanctus in Eastertide are from the *Communion Service*, Op. 71, of William Mathias (1934-1992). The Fraction Anthem is a responsive setting by Gary James (b. 1957), composed in 1992. While we usually sing Agnus Dei or *Pascha nostrum*, this *contrafractorium* is based on the Lucan Resurrection account (24:13-35) and 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

It certainly would not be Easter Day if the service didn’t begin with “Jesus Christ is risen today!” The text as it appears in our hymnal originated as a fourteenth-century Latin hymn. It was first translated into English in 1708. Some might be familiar with a text by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) matched to this tune. A few stanzas from his text can be found at Hymn #188, “Love’s redeeming work is done.”

Our hymn to close the service is “The day of resurrection!” This text captures the “endless joy” of Easter, as life has vanquished death once and forevermore. It was written by St. John of Damascus (ca. 675-749). Originally, this was a hymn for the Service of the Word at midnight before Easter morning.

The Offertory Anthem is a thrilling setting of “Come, ye faithful, raise the strain.” It was composed by Englishman Reginald Thatcher (1888-1957). Thatcher held many prominent posts, including Director of Music at the Royal Naval College, Deputy Director of Music to the BBC, and Principal of the Royal Academy of Music. This piece is a stirring hymn-anthem; Thatcher calls for the congregation to join in for the third stanza of his memorable tune.

Finally, the postlude will be a staple of the organ repertory, the Toccata from Charles-Marie Widor’s Fifth Organ Symphony. Though Widor (1844-1937) is mostly known to lay listeners for just this piece, his ten organ symphonies established the genre, bringing a new seriousness to the organ in nineteenth-century France. His famous toccata is emblematic of the unbridled joy of Easter and eternal victory of life; in the words of Charles Wesley, “Where, O death, is now thy sting? Where thy victory, O grave?”

Saturday, April 8, 7:45 pm

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER CONVOCATIONAL WORSHIP

at

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
275 Southfield Road, Shreveport

Salvation History,
Holy Eucharist,
Baptisms,
and
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following



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Mission Statement: *To restore all people to unity with God and each other through Christ.*



Hope House: There is an ongoing need for coffee, sugar, creamer, laundry detergent **pods**, disposable razors, and personal-size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) Please take your donations to 762 Austen Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

Forward Day by Day for **April** and **May**, in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.

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The Rev. Donald D. Heacock
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