



# GRACE-ST. LUKE'S

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## E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

### AN OBSERVANCE OF THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

APRIL 11, 2020 7:00 PM

Via Prerecorded Video posted at 7:00 PM  
on [www.facebook.com/gracestlukes](https://www.facebook.com/gracestlukes) and  
[www.gracestlukes.org/news/holy-week-at-home](https://www.gracestlukes.org/news/holy-week-at-home)

This service leaflet is for use before, after,  
or during the watching of the video.

A note before we begin:

On a typical Saturday night before the Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day, the GSL parish community and other faith communities around the world, would gather for the Great Vigil of Easter. This ancient liturgy is the culmination of the Triduum, the three-day journey with our Lord from the last hours of his life (Maundy Thursday), to his death (Good Friday), and his resurrection. However, because of the temporary need for physical distancing amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we find ourselves apart during this most holy night of the year.

This prerecorded video includes members of the parish clergy and musicians highlighting traditional aspects of the Easter Vigil liturgy: First Fire of Easter, Holy Baptism, and Holy Eucharist. Beginning with the lighting of the fire, this liturgy unites many opposites and binaries: struggle between darkness and light, cross and resurrection, and death and eternal life. Typically, new Christians were baptized at this service before the congregation would gather for the first celebration of the Holy Eucharist since Maundy Thursday. During this video, the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Holy Baptism will not be administered. We look forward to when we can gather again for them.

After watching the video, you are invited to engage others in conversation about what was experienced in the signs and symbols depicted. Because this liturgy begins Eastertide, the Great 50 Days of Easter, especially during this time the Church is called to live even more deeply into what it means to be followers of Jesus." Our baptismal mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ as we pray and worship, proclaim the Gospel, and promote justice, peace, and love. Though we cannot be together on this sacred night, know that your clergy's prayers for you are unceasing. We hope this film will be a meaningful offering for you at Easter and beyond.

**Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher**  
**Assisting Priest: The Rev. Meredith Jane Day**

## **The Meaning of “This Night”** by The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector

### **The Lighting of the Paschal Candle**

*In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant address the people saying*

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over 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 Celebrant continues with this prayer*

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Priest bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, singing three times*

“The light of Christ.” The people respond, “Thanks be to God.”

### **The Exsultet**

*The first portion of the following is chanted during the procession of the Paschal Candle to the sanctuary*

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 his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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 ancestors, 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 we are 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 for ever and ever. Amen.

### **A Reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

36:24-28

Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

### **Organ Interlude: Dr. Patrick A. Scott**

## **Sermon: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector**

*The Easter Vigil Sermon of St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople (400 AD) is read as a longstanding custom in parishes throughout the world. This Easter sermon was prepared for catechumenates (those preparing for baptism) at the end of their Lenten journey and offers timeless words of us today.*

Are there any who are devout lovers of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival! Are there any who are grateful servants? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord! Are there any weary from fasting? Let them now receive their due! If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their reward. If any have come after the third hour, let them with gratitude join in the feast! Those who arrived after the sixth hour, let them not doubt; for they shall not be short-changed. Those who have tarried until the ninth hour, let them not hesitate; but let them come too. And those who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let them not be afraid by reason of their delay. For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first. The Lord gives rest to those who come at the eleventh hour, even as to those who toiled from the beginning. To one and all the Lord gives generously. The Lord accepts the offering of every work. The Lord honors every deed and commends their intention. Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord! First and last alike, receive your reward. Rich and poor, rejoice together! Conscientious and lazy, celebrate the day! You who have kept the fast, and you who have not, rejoice, this day, for the table is bountifully spread! Feast royally, for the calf is fatted. Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the banquet of faith. Enjoy the bounty of the Lord's goodness! Let no one grieve being poor, for the universal reign has been revealed. Let no one lament persistent failings, for forgiveness has risen from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free. The Lord has destroyed death by enduring it. The Lord vanquished hell when he descended into it. The Lord put hell in turmoil even as it tasted of his flesh. Isaiah foretold this when he said, "You, O Hell, were placed in turmoil when he encountering you below." Hell was in turmoil having been eclipsed. Hell was in turmoil having been mocked. Hell was in turmoil having been destroyed. Hell was in turmoil having been abolished. Hell was in turmoil having been made captive. Hell grasped a corpse, and met God. Hell seized earth, and encountered heaven. Hell took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are cast down! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life is set free! Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead. For Christ, having risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Christ be glory and power forever and ever. Amen!

## **The Thanksgiving over and Blessing of the Water at the Baptismal Font**

**The Easter Acclamation** *repeated three times*

"Alleluia. Christ is risen." The people respond, "The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia."

## **The Elevation of the Eucharistic Elements at the Altar**

### **The Anthem: Christ has conquered (*Christus Vincit*)**

*music: Joseph Noyon (1888-1962; arr. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012))  
text: trans. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)*

Christ has conquered, Christ, our sovereign, Christ reigns forevermore!  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and forevermore, world without end. Amen.

## **Many thanks to those who made this video possible.**

### **Clergy**

The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector  
The Rev. Meredith Jane Day, Curate

### **Musicians**

Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist  
Members of the Grace-St. Luke's Schola:  
Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster  
Elizabeth Hornor, Shelby Seese, Isabel Wittman,  
Andrew Carroll, Daniel Massey, Charles McGowan, André Moore

### **Videographer**

Noah Glenn of Perpetual Motion  
([www.perpetualmotion.film](http://www.perpetualmotion.film))

*First Fire of Easter made possible by Grace-St. Luke's member Michael Rowland.  
Video funding made possible by gifts to Special Programs offered by Grace-St. Luke's.*

**Grace-St. Luke's:** Join us for events between now and Easter Day. Explore the following news, take good care, and please be in touch with the clergy-staff team to assist you along the way!

## Virtual Offerings

**Next week,** we will resume our temporary schedule of worship, formation and fellowship offerings and hope you will spend Eastertide by participating. Follow this [link](#) for details.

## Take Note

**Friday, Special eNews.** Watch for an email at 3 p.m. about what to expect on the upcoming Sunday including service leaflet access, what's ahead for the coming week, and any updates from the clergy or the senior warden.

**REALM Connect for GSL Parishioners.** Now, more than ever, we need to use all possible means to connect. One way to do this: setup your REALM profile, if you have not already done so. If you did not get your Realm invite, or you need help setting up your profile, contact Parish House Receptionist and Ministry Associate Abby Huber (901-252-6336, [ahuber@gracestlukes.org](mailto:ahuber@gracestlukes.org)) or Lucy Owens 901-252-6333, [lowens@gracestlukes.org](mailto:lowens@gracestlukes.org)). It's not just a database, but an interactive tool used to integrate parishioners, ministries, and groups. Think: GSL Facebook with more privacy features! You can update your profile including with photos, keep in touch with others through the directory, stay involved in groups, manage pledges and giving, and more. Sign up today and visit [www.gracestlukes.org/realms](http://www.gracestlukes.org/realms) for more information.

## Worship and Music

**Holy Saturday, April 11,** 7 p.m. Release of prerecorded 20-minute video of GSL clergy and musicians highlighting the significance of this night.

**The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day, April 12,** 10:30 a.m. Live Stream Festival Service of The Holy Eucharist including sermon and music.

**Compline** is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. via [Facebook Live](#).

**Details.** For important details about each of these and more, follow these links to [Holy Week At Home](#) and [Weekly Virtual Offerings](#) and invite others to join us.

## Christian Formation

**Adults:** All are encouraged to [explore Virtual Offerings](#) for a listing of events and learning opportunities.

**Youth:** Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. on Instagram Live, and Sunday EYC via ZOOM: Middle School 5 p.m., High School 6 p.m. Teens also are connecting on Instagram ([gsl.youth](#)) and utilizing the "D365" daily devotion.

**Children:** Households are encouraged to explore [Faith at Home](#) and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd resources at [cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-approach/cgs-in-the-home-parent-resources](http://cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-approach/cgs-in-the-home-parent-resources).

## Community Life

**Extra Care during this Temporary Season.** The clergy, vestry, and pastoral care leadership are reaching out to all households, especially our seniors and those who may be medically compromised to learn how best to support them: meals, errands and more. If you or another might benefit from such care, or you are available to assist with this ministry, contact the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher (901-252-6320, [orencher@gracestlukes.org](mailto:orencher@gracestlukes.org)).

### Recurring

Set up recurring 2020 pledge payments by scanning the QR code with your phone!



### Online Giving

Make a one time gift now by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone!



**Sustaining Our Common Life at GSL.** The clergy-staff team, wardens, and vestry serve to support the faith journeys of households and to foster connections during this pandemic season and always. While we practice self-care and navigate changes that are complex for each of us, the ongoing sacred offerings of time, talent, and treasure will keep GSL strong and sustainable. All financial gifts support the administration, operations, and life of Grace-St. Luke's. You may visit [gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving](http://gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving) or mail offerings to the church office. For assistance or if circumstances are changing, contact Parish Administrator Linda Stine ([lstine@gracestlukes.org](mailto:lstine@gracestlukes.org), 901-252-6324).

**Pastoral Care: Sharing and Responding to Concerns.** To alert the clergy of a pastoral matter concerning yourself or a member, including any medical procedures, contact the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher (901-252-6320, [orencher@gracestlukes.org](mailto:orencher@gracestlukes.org)) for his collaboration with the clergy team. For hospitalizations or emergencies concerning a member, please contact the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334. This protocol is the best way to communicate pastoral needs and ensure a prompt response from a member of the clergy or pastoral care team.

## Outreach

**More Than A Meal** continues on Sundays from 4-4:45 p.m. with a “brown bag” plan. The Food Pantry is closed temporarily due to the required physical distancing guidelines and a limited capacity to accommodate the increase of clients that would arrive to our confined space. GSL has partnered with the Mid-South Food Bank to direct clients to the more than 10 pantries available throughout the region. You may [give now or anytime to the Mid-South Food Bank](#).

Please note: For other ways to serve while staying safe during the pandemic season, explore these resource guides and we'll share other ones along the way: High Grounds Memphis Area COVID-19 [Resource Guide](#) and WMC5's [How To Help People In Need During COVID-19 Outbreak](#) . If you have questions about how to get involved with outreach or know of other COVID-19 resource guides, contact Outreach Team Leader Bill Pichette (picwill at rocketmail . com).

## Stay Informed

If you have not already done so, visit [gracestlukes.org](http://gracestlukes.org) to subscribe to the parish eNews to receive weekly, seasonal, and emergency pastoral notices from the clergy or other leaders. Visit <http://eepurl.com/bi3C5> to subscribe to the West Tennessee Diocesan Communicator, and for access to beyond-local news from The Episcopal Church, visit [episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup](http://episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup). Please spread the word about these key communication platforms.

## The Prayer List

**Our prayers are asked for** the Rev. Gary Nowlin, Brian, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Charles Chandler, Caroline Clay, Kay, John, Patty McManus, and Brad Larson.

**We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays**, especially Corinne Adrian, Marie Arkle, Christi Authement, Courtney Ciaramitaro, Grayson Czupryk, John Garrett, David Graber, Christiana Helvie, David Hickey, Betty Johnson, Terry Leitzell, Patty Liles, Teddy Mayer, James New, Mary Owens, Emily Richards, Anna Robbins, Anthony Scheving, Dee Sheats, Sarah Simmons, Jim Smith, Katie Smythe, Douglas Snider, Virginia Strother, and Beverly Trojan; and **for those celebrating wedding anniversaries**, especially Jerry & Sandy Crook.

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**Clergy and Staff:** The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector; The Rev. Anne S. Carrière, Interim Associate Rector; The Rev. Meredith Jane Day, Curate; Christi Authement, Athletics Director; Sharon Campbell, Director of Children's Formation; Addison Combs, Youth Formation Intern; Abby Huber, Receptionist and Ministry Associate; Chapman Morrow, Stewardship Associate; Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator; Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist; Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster; Linda Stine, Parish Administrator; Darling “D” Thomas, Lead Facilities Assistant; Amzie Williams, Director of Youth Formation. *Clergy and staff contact information: [www.gracestlukes.org/welcome/clergy-and-staff](http://www.gracestlukes.org/welcome/clergy-and-staff).*

**Vestry and Treasurer:** Grant Adams (Worship & Liturgy), Jimsie Ayres (Congregational Development), Wight Boggs (Clerk, Fellowship), Patrick Burnett (Youth Formation), Nina Callan (Pastoral Care), Ben Cowan (Children's Formation), Mike Davis (Athletics), Jim Greer (Worship & Liturgy), Sandra Ireland (Adult Formation), Jonathan Large (Outreach), Stinson Liles (Social Justice), Charlie Pazar (Jr. Warden, Property, Stewardship), Anna Robbins (Congregational Development), Tom Stephenson (Stewardship), Bev Trojan (Treasurer), and Simon Wadsworth (Sr. Warden, Administration & Communications, Stewardship)