

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD:

THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

APRIL 4, 2026

THE MOST REVEREND STEVEN J. RAICA, CELEBRANT



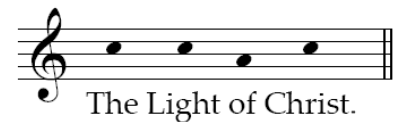
Welcome to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The order of Mass can be found on page 3 in the Sunday's Word booklets found in the pew racks. Please follow this order of worship for today's music.

FIRST PART: THE SOLEMN BEGINNING OF THE VIGIL (LUCERNARIUM)

THE BLESSING OF THE FIRE AND PREPARATION OF THE CANDLE / PROCESSION

The blessing of the new fire takes place in the CLC sunken courtyard, with those gathered then processing to the front of the church. Please join us in the courtyard for the beginning of the Solemn Liturgy!

At the door of the church the Deacon, standing and raising the candle, sings:



And all reply:



Thanks be to God.

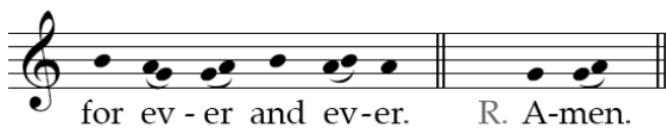
THE EASTER PROCLAMATION (EXSULTET)

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness. Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lighting of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples. Therefore, dearest friends, standing in the awesome glory of this holy light, invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty, that he who has been pleased to number me, though unworthy, among the Levites, may pour into me his light unshadowed, that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.

- ℣: The Lord be with you.
℟: And with your spirit.
℣: 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.

(next page)

It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart, and with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten. Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and pouring out his own dear Blood wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness. These then are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers. This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea. This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin. This is the night that even now, throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, lending them to grace, and joining them to his holy ones. This is the night when Christ broke the prison-bars of death, and rose victorious from the underworld. Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed. O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer! O truly blessed night, worthy alone to know the time and hour when Christ rose from the underworld! This is the night of which it is written: The night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness. The sanctifying power of this night dispels all wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty. On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church. But now we know the praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God's honor, a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious. O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human. Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star the one morning star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain has shed his peaceful light on humanity, who lives and reigns...



SECOND PART: LITURGY OF THE WORD

This evening's Mass readings are found in Sunday's Word.

Please extinguish your candles and be seated. The Bishop then instructs:

✠ Dear brethren, now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption.

At the Great Vigil of Easter it is possible to have as many as seven Old Testament readings, with three required. This year, the following readings from the various possible selections have been chosen:

RESPONSORIAL PSALM I

PSALM 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35

Refr.
7 c.**L**

Ord, send out your Spir- it, and re-new the face of the earth.

THIRD READING

EXODUS 14:15–15:1

RESPONSORIAL PSALM III

EXODUS 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18



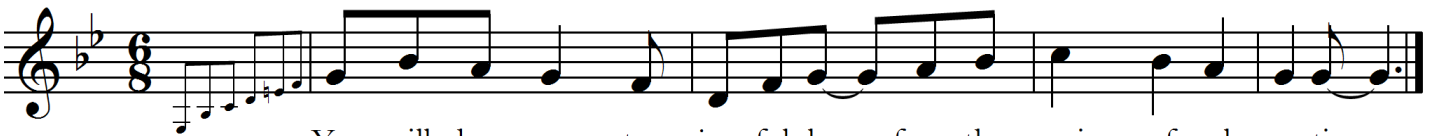
Let us sing to the Lord; he has cov-ered him-self in glo - ry.

FIFTH READING

ISAIAH 55:1-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM V

ISAIAH 12:2-3, 4, 5-6



You will draw wa - ter joy-ful-ly— from the springs of sal - va-tion.—

GLORIA

MISSA BREVIS IN D, K. 194 (WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART)

After the celebrant's intonation of "Gloria in excelsis Deo...", Cathedral Choir sings a polyphonic setting of the Gloria.

Glória in excélsis Deo
 et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntátis.
 Laudámus te,
 benedicimus te,
 adorámus te,
 glorificámus te,
 grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam tuam,
 Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,
 Deus Pater omnipotens.
 Dómine Fili unigénite, Jesu Christe,
 Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
 qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis;
 qui tollis peccáta mundi, súscipe deprecatióem nostram.

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;

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*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.*

EPISTLE

ROMANS 6:3-11

ALLELUIA

PSALM 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Intoned thrice by the Bishop, then repeated by all; sung after each verse of the Psalm



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 28:1:10

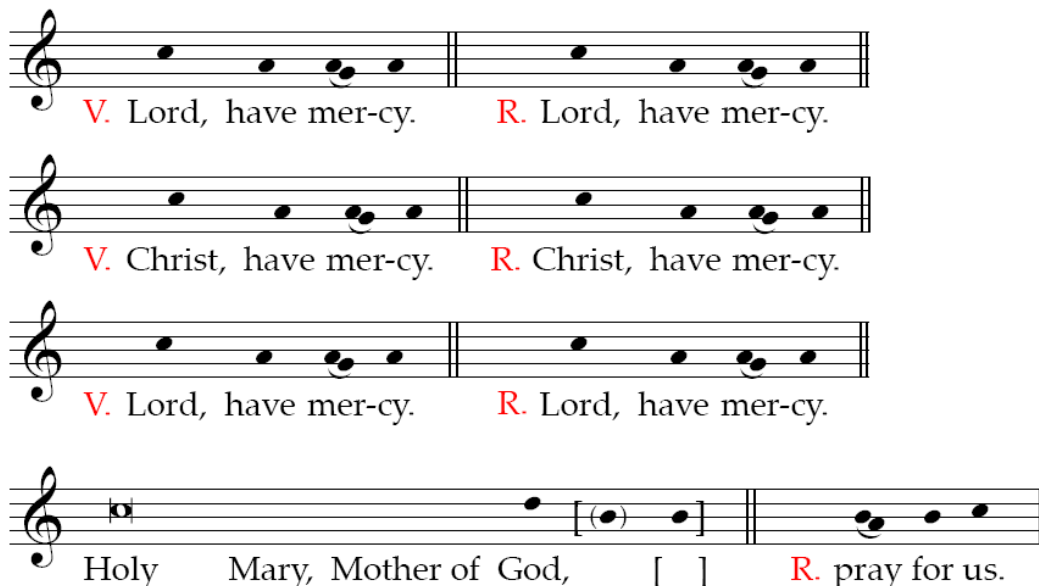
HOMILY

THE MOST REV. STEVEN J. RAICA

THIRD PART: BAPTISMAL LITURGY

The Bishop leads those present in praying for the Elect, those who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism tonight. He prays that they will receive new life in the Holy Spirit. Then, the help of God, the Saints, and Angels is invoked in the singing of the following litany. During its singing, the celebrant processes to the baptismal font with the Elect.

LITANY OF THE SAINTS



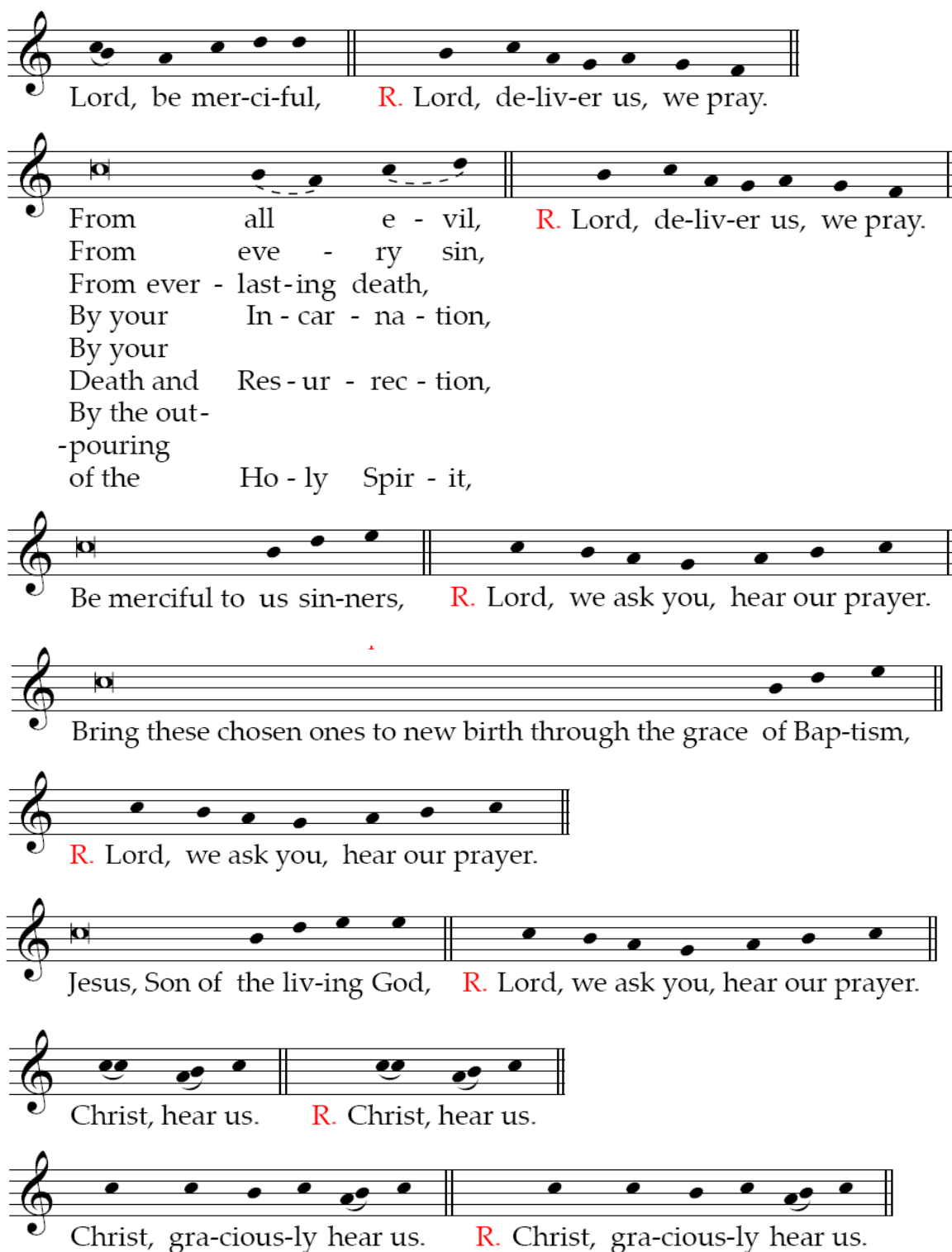
V. Lord, have mer-cy. R. Lord, have mer-cy.

V. Christ, have mer-cy. R. Christ, have mer-cy.

V. Lord, have mer-cy. R. Lord, have mer-cy.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, [] R. pray for us.

The names of many saints are invoked for their protection and intercession; the Litany ends in the following manner:



Lord, be mer-ci-ful, **R.** Lord, de-liv-er us, we pray.

From all e - vil, **R.** Lord, de-liv-er us, we pray.
From eve - ry sin,
From ever - last-ing death,
By your In - car - na - tion,
By your
Death and Res - ur - rec - tion,
By the out-
-pouring
of the Ho - ly Spir - it,

Be merciful to us sin-ners, **R.** Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Bring these chosen ones to new birth through the grace of Bap-tism,

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Jesus, Son of the liv-ing God, **R.** Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Christ, hear us. **R.** Christ, hear us.

Christ, gra-cious-ly hear us. **R.** Christ, gra-cious-ly hear us.

The celebrant blesses the baptismal water, recalling God's covenants with his people and Christ's Baptism, Death, and Resurrection—ending with the invocation of the Holy Spirit. After the water is blessed, the people sing:

AT THE BLESSING OF THE WATER



THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Dear brethren, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

℣. Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

℟. I do.

℣. Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

℟. I do.

℣. Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

℟. I do.

℣. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

℟. I do.

℣. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

℟. I do.

℣. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

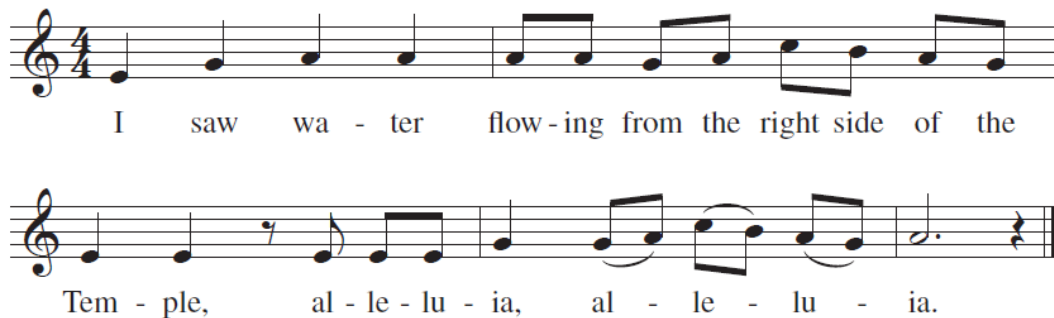
℟. I do.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

PROCESSION TO THE SANCTUARY *I saw water*

CF. EZEKIEL 47; PSALM 118

—Setting by Peter Latona



CELEBRATION OF RECEPTION

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

FOURTH PART: LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

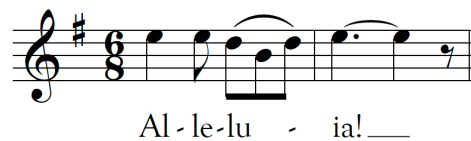
OFFERTORY

GOD REIGNS: ALLELUIA

LUCIEN DEISS

Please join in the Alleluias indicated below.

1. God reigns! The people proclaim with great joy,
2. Behold the day of the Lord, day of joy,
3. Today the rock which was rejected becomes the cornerstone,
4. This is the marvel that the Lord does for us, and blest be His name!
5. Lord, You have fed with Your flesh all those whom You have redeemed,
6. Grant us, we pray You, O Lord, the joys of the eternal Pasch,



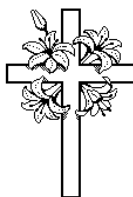
1&2. His life overcomes our death; His holy
cross conquers hell!



3&4. Jesus Christ, beloved Savior of all mankind.



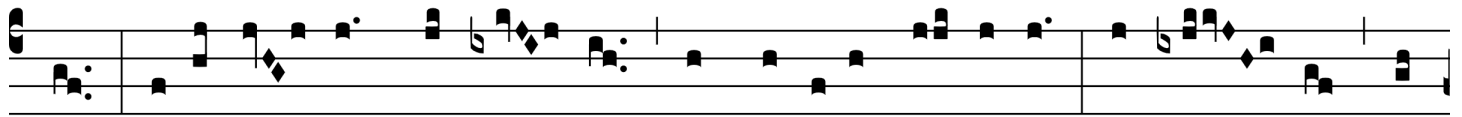
5&6. For You have given life to our souls with
Your precious blood.



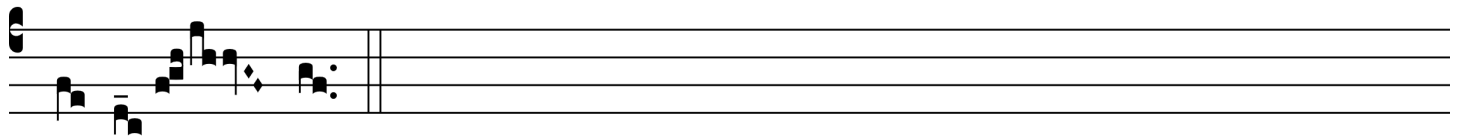
SANCTUS

MASS VIII



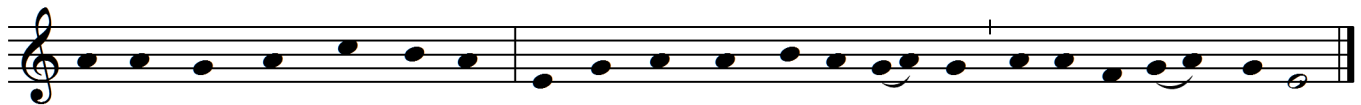


sis. Bene-dí- ctus qui ve- nit in nómine Dó-mi-ni. Ho- sán- na in



ex cél- sis.

MYSTERIUM FIDEI

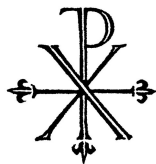


We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion un-til you come a-gain.

AMEN



A - men, a - men, a - men.



AGNUS DEI

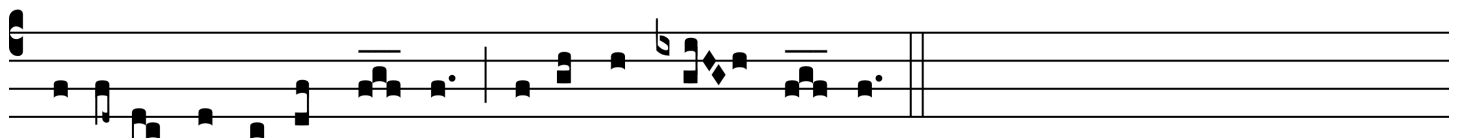
MASS VIII



A - gnus De- i, * qui tollis peccá-ta mun-di : mi-se-ré- re no- bis. Agnus



De- i, * qui tol- lis peccá-ta mun-di : mi-se-ré- re no- bis. A-gnus De- i, *



qui tollis peccá-ta mun-di : dona no- bis pa- cem.

HOLY COMMUNION

We invite all Catholics who are properly disposed (i.e., in the state of grace and having fasted for one hour before communion) to come forward in the usual way to receive Holy Communion.

All others, including our non-Catholic guests, may remain in their pews and join us in prayer. Alternatively, to participate in the communion procession and receive a blessing, come forward in the line and cross your arms over your chest as you approach the minister. Thank you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Pascha nostrum*

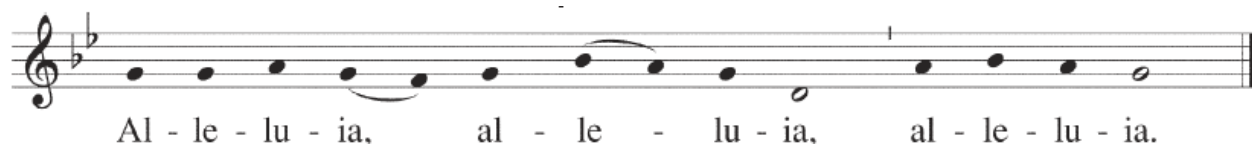
1 CORINTHIANS 5:7-8

Pascha nostrum immolatus est Christus, alleluia: itaque epulemur in azymis sinceritatis et veritatis, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. / Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia.

COMMUNION

O FILI ET FILIAE

Please join in the antiphon below after the cantor intonation and between Psalm verses.



COMMUNION

ALLELUIA: DIC NOBIS MARIA

FRANCISCO LOPEZ-CAPILLAS

Alleluia: Dic nobis, Maria, quid vidisti in via? Sepulchrum Christi viventis: et gloriam vidi resurgentis. Alleluia: Dic nobis, Maria, quid vidisti in via? Angelicos testes, sudarium et vestes. Alleluia: Dic nobis, Maria, quid vidisti in via? Surrexit Christus spes mea: praecedet vos in Galilaeam. Alleluia: Scimus Christum surrexisse a mortuis vere: tu nobis, victor Rex, miserere. Amen.

Alleluia: Tell us, Mary, what did you see on the way? I saw the tomb of Christ the living, and the glory of the risen one. Tell us, Mary, what did you see on the way? I saw the angel witnesses, the sheet and clothes. Tell us, Mary, what did you see on the way? Christ, my hope is risen: He will go before you into Galilee. Alleluia: We know that Christ has truly risen from the dead. Have mercy upon us, Thou triumphant King. Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION

REGINA CAELI (SIMPLE TONE)



Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Thanks be to God, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR CUSTOM OF STAYING THROUGH THE CONCLUSION OF THE CLOSING HYMN.
THIS IS OUR CORPORATE ACT OF THANKSGIVING AFTER MASS. THANK YOU!

CLOSING

JESUS CHRIST IS RIS'N TODAY

EASTER HYMN

1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise him, now his might con - fess, Al - le - lu - ia!

Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest. Al - le - lu - ia!

VOLUNTARY

CHORAL NR. 3

CÉSAR FRANCK

ABOUT TONIGHT'S MUSIC

Easter Vigil at the Cathedral of Saint Paul presents a variety of music, showing the diversity of the music of the Catholic Church for Eastertide. First heard is the beautiful cantillation of the *Exsultet*, the ancient chant that brings us, in a sense, through the waters of the Red Sea to the Easter mysteries. It sets the stage for the psalmody of the Mass, here in diverse styles: the first psalm is a composition by our former director of music, Steve Calvert, that quotes the Pentecost hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* (for obvious reasons when considering the text). The following psalm sets the journey through the Red Sea evocatively as is from Canadian composer Michel Guimont. The last psalm is a classic setting by Richard Proulx which uses a tone composed by Joseph Gelineau. Then, we hear the first *Gloria* of the Easter season, in this instance by Mozart. His *Missa Brevis in D* was written while he was in the employ of the Archbishop of Salzburg. This is his last Mass (outside of the Requiem) not in the key of C; many have speculated as to why, but this setting reflects a main requirement of the archbishop—brevity! That said, Mozart still sets things with great aplomb, and the *Gloria* is pretty economical. Solos are brief, chorus sections are compelling. In many ways, it is one of the best Mass ordinary settings of the Classical period. Perhaps the strictures imposed really helped make this piece the masterpiece it is! We then hear the Gregorian Alleluia for Easter: intoned thrice by the Bishop, a bit higher each time, it truly inaugurates the Easter season. Following the *Litany of the Saints*, we hear Passionist priest Lucien Deiss' Easter hymn "God reigns", closely associated with Notre-Dame-de-Paris. Mass VIII, or the "*Missa de Angelis*", has been sung at the Easter Vigil at the Cathedral for decades, and provides our *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei*. After the Gregorian *communio* and the great Easter hymn O FILII ET FILIAE, we hear a motet by Francisco Lopez-Capillas, the first really notable native-born American to achieve fame as a choirmaster in New Spain (present day Mexico) in the 17th Century. Many may not be aware that the religious missionaries to the New World (along with their humanizing influence on the *conquistadores*) were very interested in teaching music and the arts in general aside from other pursuits along with the Trivium. In short order, according to one missionary (Fray Bartolome Las Casas), those in present-day Mexico City quickly exceeded the skill of their teachers! Lopez first achieved fame as choirmaster at the Cathedral in Puebla (only known to most in the USA as the home of Cinco de Mayo, but one of the pre-eminent Cathedrals in Mexico at that time musically). He then came back to Mexico City to assist with music and a children's schola (similar to ours!) after which he was appointed as director of music. This piece uses the Alleluia refrain as a "ritornello" (not unlike the later works of Vivaldi) between verses of the Easter sequence. The verses are paired voices in the choir until the final one, which proclaims "Christ is Risen!" all together. It is a beautiful piece, and it is equally amazing to hear the wonders made thanks to the Catholic cultural heritage the people of Mexico received. The closing voluntary features excerpts from Franck's *Chorale Nr. 3*, one of the most famous pieces in the organ repertoire, played by our Organ Scholar as part of his studies at Samford University with Dr. Fred Teardo. It is a magnificent piece in minor key, but not morose: one can find in it an allegory for the triumph of good (or in the case of Easter, the Ultimate Good) over evil. Happy Easter!

One of the strengths of the Cathedral of Saint Paul is its wonderful, robust support of music and liturgy. While we hope parishioners will be encouraged to join Cathedral Choir (see more under the website's "Sacred Music" tab), we can offer opportunities for all (even occasional choirs in Summer and the like, when family life is a bit slower) with your support: simply reach out to the Director of Music at ludwick@stpaulsbhm.org. Happy Easter!

MUSIC REMINDERS

–Interested in what is coming up next? Visit www.stpaulsbhm.org/sacredmusic/

–*The next FREE concert of our DOWNTOWN CONCERT SERIES is on FRIDAY, APRIL 17, at 7:00PM as we present THE AEOLIANS of OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY!* One of Alabama's greatest musical treasures, in the past 20 years especially, the group has achieved international notoriety, including a concert invitation by the President of the United States and wins in the World Choir Games and other prestigious competitions. Aeolian performances present a repertoire of choral music which ranges from the Baroque era to the 21st Century. They have become an authoritative exponent of Negro spirituals and work songs which express the yearnings of their forefathers to be free. This concert is their first solo concert in Birmingham in decades! Benefactors are needed, as well, so please show your support for this wonderful choir! Simply contact the Director of Music (Ludwick@stpaulsbhm.org) or call the office to make a donation!

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

2120 3RD AVENUE NORTH

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203

WWW.STPAULSBHM.ORG 205.251.1279

THE MOST REVEREND STEVEN J. RAICA, JCD

BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM IN ALABAMA

THE VERY REVEREND BRYAN W. JERABEK, JCL, RECTOR

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY 5:00PM (ANTICIPATED), SUNDAY 7:15, 8:30, & 11:00AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 6:30AM & 12:10PM

CONFESSIONS

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 11:30AM-12:00PM; SATURDAY, 3:00-4:30PM OR BY APPOINTMENT



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