



St. Joseph's
Episcopal Church

WELCOMES YOU!

We are a Church on the Way and we offer you companionship in Christ. St. Joseph's is committed to love, discipleship and service which strengthen families and communities. Come, let's journey together.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Winfred Vergara (Father Fred)



SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 AM VIRTUAL: Zoom ID: 879 8213 9653 Passcode: 854091

By Phone: 646-876-9923 (Pietra Jones, Digital Coordinator)

**11:00 AM Eucharist at St. Thomas Episcopal Church
6 Commonwealth Blvd., Bellerose, NY 11001**

Organist & Choir Director: Nigel Gretton | Sound: Garfield DaCosta

Seminarian-Musician: Romy John Abraham

**WEDNESDAY PRAYER & PRAISE WITH HOLY COMMUNION (10:30 AM)
99-10 217th Lane, Queens Village, Queens Village, NY 11429**

Volunteer Musician: Angela V. Vergara

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, March 30, 2024

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

[The congregation with the priest, servers, and choir, gather just outside the church near the front door. First, the New Fire is kindled, and then the priest addresses the congregation.]

OPENING PRAYER

Celebrant: 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.

Let us pray.

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.***

OPENING VERSICLE

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon (the Celebrant if there is no deacon) bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying.

Celebrant: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand, and the Cantor, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet. (Please remain standing.)

EXSULTET - HYMNAL S69

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.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

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 fathers, 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 man is 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.**

INVITATION

Celebrant: Let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

FIRST READING: THE STORY OF CREATION: Genesis 1:1--2:4a

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day

and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. ^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a}These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

FIRST RESPONSE PSALM 136:1-9, 23-26

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, * for his mercy endures forever.

²Give thanks to the God of gods, * for his mercy endures forever.

³Give thanks to the LORD of lords, * for his mercy endures forever.

⁴Who only does great wonders, * for his mercy endures forever;

⁵Who by wisdom made the heavens, * for his mercy endures forever;

⁶Who spread out the earth upon the waters, * for his mercy endures forever;

⁷Who created great lights, * for his mercy endures forever;

⁸The sun to rule the day, * for his mercy endures forever;

⁹The moon and the stars to govern the night, * for his mercy endures forever.

²³Who remembered us in our low estate, * for his mercy endures forever;

²⁴And delivered us from our enemies, *for his mercy endures forever.

²⁵Who gives food to all creatures, * for his mercy endures forever.

²⁶Give thanks to the God of heaven, * for his mercy endures forever.

FIRST COLLECT

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

SECOND READING: THE FLOOD: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

¹The LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; ³and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹²The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, ¹⁴they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. ¹⁷The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ^{8:6}At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; ⁹but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; ¹¹and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him anymore. ¹³In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from

the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. ¹⁴In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. ¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” ¹⁸So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives.

^{9:8}Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

SECOND RESPONSE: Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the
earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled
into the depths of the sea;

³Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at
its tumult.

⁴The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁵There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not
be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.

⁷The nations make much ado, and the
kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall
melt away.

⁸The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁹Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.

¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

SECOND COLLECT (BCP p. 288)

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THIRD READING: ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC: Genesis 22:1-18

¹God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. ⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

¹¹"Be still, then, and know that I am God; *

I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."

¹²The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

THIRD RESPONSE: Psalm 16

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *

I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

²All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.

³But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *

indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

⁸I have set the LORD always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

¹¹You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

THIRD COLLECT

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

FOURTH READING: ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." ¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and

threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

^{15:20}Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

FOURTH RESPONSE: Canticle 8: The Song of Moses

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty
and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled
into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my
refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him,
* the God of my people and I will exalt
him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army
has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor
have been drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has
overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in
might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has
overthrown the enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O
Lord, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and worker of
wonders?

You stretched forth your right hand;
* the earth swallowed them up.

With your constant love you led the
people you redeemed; *

with your might you brought them in
safety to your holy dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant
them *
on the mount of your possession,

The resting-place you have made for
yourself, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand
has established.

The Lord shall reign *
forever and forever.

FOURTH COLLECT

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

FIFTH READING: THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES: Ezekiel 37:1-14

1The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." 7So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. 11Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13And you

shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

FIFTH RESPONSE: Psalm 143

1 LORD, hear my prayer,
and in your faithfulness heed my
supplications; *
answer me in your righteousness.

2 Enter not into judgment with your
servant, *
for in your sight shall no one living be
justified.

3 For my enemy has sought my life;
he has crushed me to the ground; *
he has made me live in dark places like
those who are long dead.

4 My spirit faints within me; *
my heart within me is desolate.

5 I remember the time past;
I muse upon all your deeds; *
I consider the works of your hands.

6 I spread out my hands to you; *
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty
land.

7 O LORD, make haste to answer me;
my spirit fails me; *

do not hide your face from me
or I shall be like those who go down to
the Pit.

8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness
in the morning, for I put my trust in
you; *
show me the road that I must walk,
for I lift up my soul to you.

9 Deliver me from my enemies, O
LORD, *
for I flee to you for refuge.

10 Teach me to do what pleases you,
for you are my God; *
let your good Spirit lead me on level
ground.

11 Revive me, O LORD, for your
Name's sake; * for your righteousness'
sake, bring me out of trouble.

12 Of your goodness, destroy my
enemies and bring all my foes to
naught, *
for truly I am your servant.

FIFTH COLLECT

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the

forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus
our Lord. Amen

The congregational candles may now be extinguished.

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen. Alleluia.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

HYMN: Lev. 42 - "He Lives"

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.
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.

COLLECT FOR EASTER VIGIL (BCP p. 294)

The Celebrant then says

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of
the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy:

Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

EPISTLE: Romans 6:3-11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

PSALM: Psalm 114

¹Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

²Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

³The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

⁴The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

⁵What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

⁶You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?

⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

SEQUENCE HYMN: Lev. 35 - "How He Loves You and Me"

GOSPEL: Matthew 27:57-66

All stand.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON - The Rev. Canon Dr. Winfred Vergara ***"Burial and Anticipation"***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

Leader: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
"Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the
Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For this city (town, village, _____), for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: In the communion of [_____ and of all the] saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People: *To thee, O Lord our God.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

The Priest stands and says: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY HYMN: Lev. 43 - "Because He Lives"

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues - We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you; we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with _____) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

LEV. 146 - *"Break Thou the Bread of Life"*

LEV. 154 - *"Taste and See"*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: 1982 Hymnal 199 - *"Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"*

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

2024 St. Joseph's Focus Group

Father Fred (interim PIC), Robert Saunders (Warden), Sandra Simpson (Warden), Coretta Johnson (Treasurer), Jeffrey Samms, Edline Severe Joseph. Sandra Jones, Oren Adams, Carlton Mitchell, Cynthia Lewis, Justin Sinclair, Pauline Parchment and Shirley Jones.

Church Leadership

Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Canon Dr. Winfred Vergara
Wardens	Robert Saunders Sandra Simpson
Vestry Members	Roxanne Adams, Clerk; Coretta Johnson, Treasurer; Reginald Byfield; Olidia Gordon; Justin Sinclair; Angela Brown; Jennifer Maxfield; Harold Lowe; Jeffrey Samms; La Verne Mitchell; Edline Severe-Joseph; Nichola Walker
Committee Co-Chairs	
Finance	Angela Brown and Harold Lowe
Building & Grounds	Jennifer Maxfield and Jeffrey Samms
Stewardship	La Verne Mitchell and Reginald Byfield
Youth & Young Adult	Nichola Walker and Justin Sinclair
Outreach	Edline Severe-Joseph and Olidia Gordon

CONTACT US

Church Office | St. Joseph's Rectory

99-10 217th Lane, Queens Village, NY 11429

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, and Spiritual Counseling please call the Church Office
at 718 464 8913.

Administrator | Georgia Dunn | admin@stjosephqv.org

Accounting Clerk | Camylle Haughton | accounting@stjosephqv.org

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Canon Dr. Winfred Vergara | ffred@stjosephqv.org

Office: 718 464 8913 | Mobile: 929 218 0339 for pastoral emergencies

For more information, visit our website at: www.stjosephqv.org