



The Great Vigil of Easter
April 11, 2020
8:00 p.m.

*All Saints Episcopal Parish
701 Washington Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030*

If you have not already prepared a place in your home for prayer or sacred use, set a table with a candle and one or two special items – a Bible, Prayer Book, icon, or some other object meaningful to you. If all you have space for is your dining table or coffee table, use that. For this liturgy, have extra candles for those participating in your household and a bowl of water. For the additional psalms and canticles, you will need a Book of Common Prayer. You may find it online at bcponline.org.

The first part of this liturgy will be livestreamed from YouTube (All Saints Hoboken) and the dioceseofnewark.org.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant may address the people in these or similar words

Beloved 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 linger in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord in which, by virtue of our baptism into his death, into the hope of his resurrection, we celebrate the new life we have received by Christ's mercy, awaiting the time when we may gather again around his holy altar.

The Celebrant may say the following prayer

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.**

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Celebrant, bearing the Candle, processes into the chancel, pausing three times and singing

 The light of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

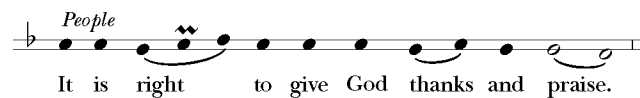
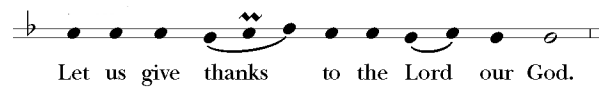
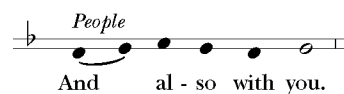
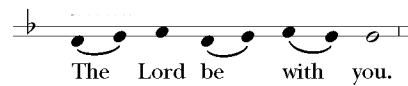
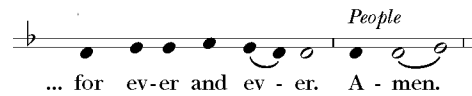
People may light candles at home at this time.

The person appointed, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet, as follows

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 witness 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,



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 and mothers, 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.

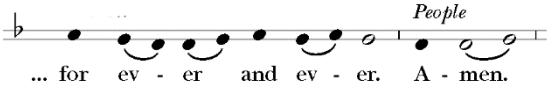
This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

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 humankind is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our living sacrifice of this candle in your honor.
May Christ, the light of the world, bring us healing. May Christ, your
light in us, drive away darkness and fear. May Christ, the Morning Star
who knows no setting, find our faith ever burning, our love of mercy and
justice ever afire - he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and
reigns



Celebrant

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew
your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth
and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



The service continues individually or with those gathered with you in your home.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Leader at home may introduce the Scripture readings in these words

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.

*Read as many lessons as you like; always read the lesson from Exodus. After each lesson, the suggested Psalm or Canticle or a song
may be chanted or sung. At the end of this document are the same readings translated in language more suitable for children.*

The story of Creation, a reading from Genesis

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the 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.
Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and
God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called
Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from
the waters." So 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. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening
and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then 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. The 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. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And 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, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So 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. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And 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. God 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.

Then 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."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God 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." God 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. And 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. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And 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. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all

the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested psalms: 33:1-11 (BCP, 626) or 36:5-10 (BCP, 632)

The Leader may say the following 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.**

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea, a reading from Exodus

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21

As 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. They 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? Is 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." But 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. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But 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. Then 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. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The 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. It 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.

Then 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. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At 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. He 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."

Then 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." So 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. The 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. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel 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.

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. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested canticle: Canticle 8, The Song of Moses (BCP, 85)

The Leader may say the following 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.**

Salvation offered freely to all, a reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested canticle: Canticle 9, The First Song of Isaiah (BCP, 86) or Psalm 42:1-7 (BCP, 643)

The Leader may say the following Collect.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested psalms: 98 (BCP, 727) or 126 (BCP, 782)

The Leader may say the following Collect.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Leader may say

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

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

People **I do.**

Leader Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Leader 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.

Leader Do you 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.**

Leader 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.**

Leader 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.**

Leader Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

Leader 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.**

The Leader says

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Grant by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we who sign ourselves with the cross and with water as a reminder of our Baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To Christ, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Make the sign of the cross on your forehead with water from the bowl (splashing each other if you want!), to remind you of your baptism.

Proclaim the Resurrection! (Ring bells, if you want!)

Leader Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Read the Easter Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Pray the Prayers of the People, led by a person appointed.

On this most holy night, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, those in need, and all the members of God's family, responding to each petition with the words: Hear our prayer.

A brief silence.

We pray, O God, for all the churches around the globe: for their bishops and clergy; for the newly baptized; for the believers who cannot assemble for worship; for faithful endurance during this time of sorrow and distress; and for a deepening sense of your presence among us.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Temple: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the well-being of creation: for the health of seas and rivers and lakes; and for the will to care for your earth.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Rainbow of promise: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for peace and justice in the world: for an end to war and international turmoil; for concord in our troubled society; for the heads of state, legislators, and local civic leaders, that they enact wise procedures to deal with the coronavirus.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Mighty Fortress: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God for all who are facing the coronavirus: for all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. We pray for physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization. Fill the aching in our hearts with your merciful power.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Everlasting Arms: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for all in need: for those suffering for the faith; for those who are poor, hungry, and homeless; for those who are sick and those awaiting death; and for those we name before you here.

A brief silence.

O God, you are the Healer of our every ill: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the desires of our hearts:

A longer period of silence.

O God, you are our Heart's Desire: in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks for all who died in the faith, and bring us at the final resurrection into your everlasting life, where sorrows will be no more.

A brief silence.

O God, our Beginning and our End, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your gracious and mighty hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Pray the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Conclude

Leader Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us!

People **Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

Leader When we share our bread with one another

All **The Lamb of God will make us one.**

†††

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Children's Readings for the Great Vigil of Easter

adapted from *God's Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children* by Lyn Zill Briggs (Church Publishing, Inc. 2015)

The story of Creation, a reading from Genesis

Genesis 1:1-2:2

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth had no shape at all. There wasn't any light. The water was in total darkness, and God's breath moved back and forth over the sea. God said out loud, "Let there be light." And there was! God separated the light and the darkness and called the light "daytime" and called the dark "nighttime." That was the very first day.

"This is good," God said.

Then God worked on separating the water from the sky. That was the second day.

God said, "Let's put all the water on the earth together in one place and call it 'sea' and the places of dry land we'll call 'earth.'" He called them "seas" and "earth." God was very pleased with how things were coming together. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth plants and trees. Let's have plants that grow food! Great!" God said, "This third day was very good."

God said, "Now let's put some order to the light in the skies. We need something to separate day from night, and days from years, and seasons from seasons." And it was so. The big light is the sun which we see in the day, and the smaller light is the moon. Then God made all the stars in the sky. That was the fourth day.

God said, "I'd like to see some living creatures, like fish in the sea and whales and all kinds of birds in the sky. Let's make some huge sea monsters that live way down deep and then some little fish who like to flip out of the water. Oh, I've got so many great ideas about animals. Let's make them all." Every kind of animal that crawls or runs or flies was made by God. And God was delighted. God blessed them so that they could multiply and said, "Please fill up the oceans with things that swim and fill the skies with birds." That was the fifth day.

God said, "Now, let's see. What kind of animals should live on the dry parts? How about cows and bugs and cats and all kinds of wild animals?" And the earth was filled with every kind of animal God could imagine. And God saw that it was really, really good.

Then God said, "Let us make people in our image who are more like us, and they can take care of the earth and the seas and the animals and the birds in the air and the fish in the sea." So God created man and woman. God blessed them and told them to be productive and have children so there would always be someone to take care of God's creation. God explained that they could use the plants to feed themselves.

God stepped back and looked at everything. Such excellent work! That was the end of the sixth day.

On the seventh day, God took a break, blessed and declared that day a day of rest. That rest felt very, very good.

Psalm 33:1-12

Good people, praise God.

Pick up your harps and your violins and guitars.

Make beautiful melodies.

Sing God a new song with loud voices.

The whole world is filled with God's love.

God's word is real and can be trusted.
God loves goodness and justice.

The whole world is filled with God's love.

God spoke the skies into being
and with one breath the angels were made.
God holds the waters of the sea in a bottle
and stores the depths of the oceans in a closet.

The whole world is filled with God's love.

Everyone in the whole world,
get down on your knees in respect and wonder!
One word from God and everything was created.
God tells the earth to stop spinning and it stops.

The whole world is filled with God's love.

The nations of the world plot and plan
but they can do nothing like God can do.
The thoughts of God's heart last forever.
God's plans are wise and good.
Happy are the people who belong to God and follow God.

The whole world is filled with God's love.

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea, a reading from Exodus

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21

The people of Israel had been slaves in Egypt for four hundred years. God asked Moses to lead them back to the place where their ancestors had lived. Pharaoh and the Egyptians didn't want them to leave and followed them into the desert.

The people of Israel turned around and saw that the Egyptians were catching up. They were scared and cried out to God to save them. They yelled at Moses, "Why did you bring us out here, because there weren't any graves in Egypt? It would have been better to stay in Egypt as slaves than to die out here in the middle of nowhere!"

But Moses said to the people, "Get a grip! Don't be afraid. Today God will fight for us, you'll see. And those Egyptians you see chasing us? That's the last we'll ever see of them. Let God do God's work."

When Moses told God that the people were complaining, God said, "Why? Tell them to put one foot in front of the other. When you reach the sea, lift up your walking stick, stretch your hand out over the water, and it will divide in two, and they'll be able to walk on dry ground to freedom. The Egyptians will follow us in, but they won't come out the other side. They'll know that I am God."

The angel of God had been leading the people of Israel but moved to the back. A pillar of cloud that had been leading them moved behind them, too, between the people of Israel and the Egyptians to keep them apart during the night.

When they got to the sea, Moses did what God told him; he lifted his walking stick and his hand over the water. And God used the wind to divide the sea and make a dry path right through the water. The people of Israel walked through the sea, with walls of water on either side of them. The Egyptians came in after them. They started to panic, and they got stuck in the mud. They tried to turn back, but they couldn't. They said to themselves, "It looks like God is on the side of the people of Israel. Let's get out of here."

God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the water again. Not a single Egyptian or his chariot got out before the sea returned back to normal. That's how God saved the people of Israel. They were amazed at what God had done for them. They believed that God was on their side and believed in God's servant, Moses.

Moses's sister Miriam and the women danced and sang with tambourines, "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously, horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Canticle 8: The Song of Moses

Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18

I'm singing to God with my loudest voice because God is the best.

My enemies have been hurled into the sea.

God is my protector, my strength, and now God has become
the one who saved me.

This is my God, and I will praise this mighty warrior whose
name is Yahweh.

My enemies are nowhere to be found. They are long gone.

Who can compare to you, God? Is there anyone else who is
so holy, so glorious, so awesome?

We watched you stretch out your hand, and the seas devoured
our enemies.

You led us to safety with your constant love.

You will bring us to a place of honor with you.

We will honor you wherever you choose to dwell.

You will reign forever.

Salvation offered freely to all, a reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 55:1-11

If you're thirsty, I've got water for you. Even if you don't have any money, come and eat. You don't need to be thirsty and hungry. You can have free wine and milk.

Why spend your money on food that doesn't fill you up? Why spend your time doing things that don't matter? Listen carefully to me. Eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. As much as you want. Lean close to me and listen. I will make you a promise, just as I made a promise with my steadfast, sure love for King David.

I made him someone people could look up to, a leader and commander of the people.

You can be people that everyone looks up to because I, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, have glorified you.

Look for God while God can be found. Talk to God while God is near.

Give up going the wrong way where people get hurt, and return to God. Come back to God who is ready to forgive you. God's mercy has no limits. God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.

"Just as high as the skies are above the earth, that's how much higher my thoughts are than yours. The rain and the snow come down from heaven, and they don't return until they have watered the earth. They make it ready for things to sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater. That's how my word is - once I have spoken it, it won't return to me without results. But it will do what I sent it to do."

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 12:2-6

For sure, you are the one who saves me. I'm not afraid, God, when I trust in you.
I can count on you. I just hold on tight and you defend me.
There is always water in the well of salvation to drink.
And I'm happy to call out your name and give you thanks out loud.
Tell everyone what God has done, people. Don't let them forget God's name.
Sing whenever you can about God.
Ring all the bells in Zion and keep them ringing because the Holy One is right there with you.

The gathering of God's people, a reading from Zephaniah

Zephaniah 3:12-20

Sing as loud as you can, O daughter of Zion; go ahead and shout, O Israel!
Rejoice with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
Everything and everybody that could hurt you, God has taken away.
God is right beside you and you don't have anything to be afraid of or worry about anymore.
God has won the day
and will rejoice over you with gladness.
 God's love will renew you
And God will sing with you, loudly and for a long time.
God says, "I will take care of the disasters,
 and I will deal with the people who want to put you down.
I will save those who can't keep up with you and gather the
 people on the fringes of your community.
I will change their shame into praise and make their name famous.
I will bring you home and make you special among all the
 peoples of the earth.
Things will be good again for you. Watch me make it happen.

Psalm 98

Together we'll sing a brand new song to you, God,
because of all the incredible things you have done.
You are a winner! We'll make sure everyone knows.
You haven't forgotten about us.
Your love for us is faithful through all that we've been

through together.
Let's break out in song, everyone all over the world.

Get your harps and trumpets and your voices ready to sing
praises to God.
Let the sea roar with delight, and all the creatures that swim in
the sea, join in.
Let the floodwaters clap their hands
And the hills sing in harmony because our God is coming.
When you come to us, God, you will make things right and even
the score between people.