

BLUEGRASS HOLY WEEK

Participating Congregations
Our Saviour, Madison County
Resurrection, Jessamine County
St. John's, Versailles
St. Michael's, Lexington
St. Patrick's, Somerset

Maunder Thursday

Good Friday

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Holy Triduum is a period of three days beginning on Maundy Thursday and ending with the Great Vigil of Easter. These mark the most sacred days of the Christian year. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday/The Great Vigil of Easter are the Three Holy Days in which we experience the final hours of Jesus' life, his crucifixion, and Christ's victory over the grave and death. The liturgy itself is one extended liturgy, beginning on Maundy Thursday and ending with the dismissal at the Great Vigil of Easter, with significant moments of stillness in between for prayer and reflection as we undertake this profound spiritual journey.

In the Triduum liturgies, we enter into the Paschal Mystery not simply as observers. A word that describes this is *anamnesis*, often translated into "remembrance." Anamnesis more accurately conveys that we are actually present and participating with Christ, here and now with us, in these holy acts. We are not recalling or pretending to celebrate the Lord's Supper with Christ, to witness the crucifixion, or to realize the truth of the Resurrection. We **are** with Jesus in the here and now in all these moments. We, too, are gathered with Jesus on the night before he was handed over to be crucified. We, too, are engaged in the full experience of his Passion. We, too, witness the empty tomb.

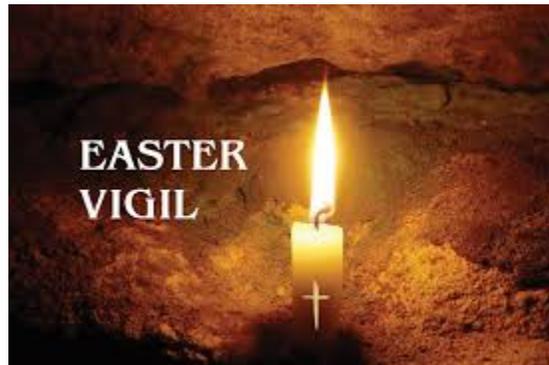
The liturgies are filled with powerful prayers and meaningful symbols as we walk with Jesus through death into resurrected life. This journey of Christ's death and resurrection is not something we intellectually explain, but is instead a mystery into which we enter by the grace of God whose love is stronger than death. We gather with each other and with Christ as we hear, witness, believe, doubt, weep, and rejoice. This experience changes us as we grow as disciples who, too, will proclaim life and love to the world.

The Great Vigil of Easter

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER is the culmination of the Triduum. This single Vigil was the primary celebration of the Paschal Mystery: Christ emerges from the tomb, crucified yet risen. In this new life of Christ, our own suffering, pain and brokenness are held in the love of God whose passion for our redemption survives the grave and turns the way of the cross, walked by us all, into the way of Life. We begin with a vigil, a service of readings, prayers, and hymns. We remember our baptisms, the sacrament by which we all pass from death into eternal life with Christ. And then, just as darkness seems to have overcome Creation, we hear the news that restores Creation – Christ is Risen!

THE LIGHTING OF THE NEW FIRE

The lighting of the New Fire begins our Vigil. The New Fire signifies the resurrected Christ whose love illumines the suffering world. The Light has come, and the darkness shall not overcome it. The Paschal Candle is lit from the New Fire and proclaimed as the Light of Christ. As the Fire is processed into the church, the people light their candles from it, and the Exsultet is sung. The Exsultet is a 6th century hymn of praise to the Light of the New Fire and the risen Christ whom it signifies. In its range of images, the Exsultet is a metaphor for the whole of the Vigil liturgy.



In darkness, the fire is kindled; after which The Rev. Margaret Shanks address the people:

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 linger in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and recalling our baptism into his death and Resurrection, we share in his victory over death as we await a time when we will gather again – together - at God's holy Altar.

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 celebration 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 Ven. Laurie Brock blesses the Paschal Candle.

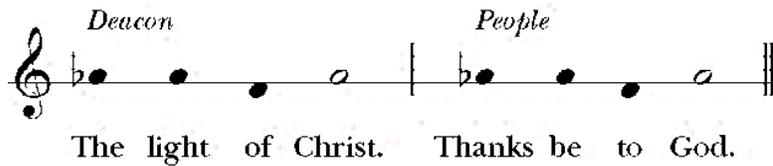
Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us.
Amen.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

All who are watching from home are invited to light their candles at this time.

The New Fire of Easter, carried by The Rev. Margaret Shanks, leads all into the church. The Rev. Deacon Emily Cardwell leads us in singing.



At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response is sung successively a step higher.

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

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Exsultet continues.

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.

*The People affirm the hymn of praise by singing (or saying) at the end, **AMEN.***

THE VIGIL READINGS

The Rev. Margaret Shanks invites us to hear the readings of the Vigil, saying:
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.

The Creation

The Creation by James Weldon Johnson
read by The Rt. Rev. Mark Van Koevering, Bishop of Lexington.

A text of the poem can be found at this website: <https://poets.org/poem/creation>.

Hymn

Morning Has Broken

Sarah Marks, Soprano
St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

The Rev. Canon Elise B. Johnstone

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

Exodus 14:10 – 31; 15:20-21

read by John Polk, St. Patrick's

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

A New Heart and a New Spirit (Ezekiel 36:24-28)

read by Patrick Hall, St. John's

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

Hymn

Veni Sancte Spiritus

The Choir of St. John's Episcopal Church

Let us pray. (Silence)

The Rev. Dana Lockhart

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

read by Stephan Locke, Our Saviour

The 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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I 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."

So 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. I 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. Then 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." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

The Rev. Laurie Brock

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 PROCLAMATION OF EASTER



*Resurrection (Meiere, M. Hildreth, 1961)
Washington National Cathedral*

The Clergy and people stand. The Rev. Margaret Shanks announces The Resurrection.

The Celebrant says Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

Members of the Choirs of the Churches in the Bluegrass Region sing as the Altar is vested and the Church is decorated for Easter.

Descant

1 Je - sus Christ is risen 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 heaven - 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, all ye heaven - ly host, 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 Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

If you have multiple candles in your home, light them all! Dance and rejoice – Easter is here!

The Collect for Easter Day

The Ven. Laurie Brock, St. Michael's

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 28:1-10

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

The Homily The Rev. Canon Elise B. Johnstone, Diocese of Lexington

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows The Rev. Dana Lockhart, St. John’s

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. As we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord and our own participation in that Resurrection through the waters of Baptism, we remember our baptism into the Body of Christ. As we pass through the waters of the font, we also pass with Christ through the grave and gate of death and are united with Christ in his Resurrection. 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 and to celebrate the Baptism of these new Christians.

The Baptismal Covenant

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 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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostle's 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 you 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.**

The Rev. Dana Lockhart concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us 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 Prayers of the People

The Rev. Chris Brannock, St Patrick's

We pray to Jesus who is present with us now and throughout all ages.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations, turn us from war and to peace and from violence to understanding.

Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and care to the outcast. Nourish us all with your Word that we may share your love with friend and enemy.

Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way, deepen our appreciation of your truth and the cost of discipleship, and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick, care for all who are anxious and fearful in the wake of this pandemic, and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you, especially those whom we love but see no longer. Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.

The Peace

The Rev. Laurie Brock, St. Michael's

Celebrant And now, let us share this holy Paschal flame, as a sign of that radiant love and affection that is the Risen Savior in our lives. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Rev. Chris Brannock, St. Patrick's

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.

The Easter Blessing

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

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Closing Easter Hymn

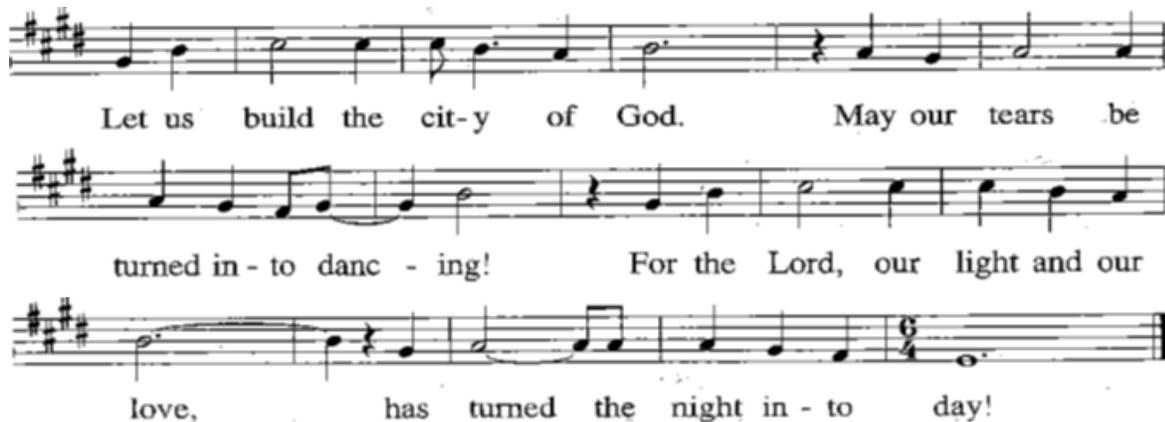
City of God

The McQueary & Loiacono Families
St Patrick's Episcopal Church

Verses 1 & 2

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!	We are sons of the morning; We are daughters of day.
A new day is dawning for all those who weep. The people in darkness have seen a great light.	The one has loved us has brightened our way. The Lord of all kindness has called us to be A light for his people to set their hearts free.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.	

Refrain:



Let us build the cit-y of God. May our tears be
turned in - to danc - ing! For the Lord, our light and our
love, has turned the night in - to day!

Verse 3 & 4

God is light; in him there is no darkness.
Let us walk in his light,
his children, one and all.
O comfort my people; make gentle your words
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth.

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O city of gladness,
now lift up your voice.
Proclaim the good tidings
that all may rejoice

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“Bonnie in the Morn”

Instrumental prelude at beginning of video

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Hymn 679

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); para. of *The First Song of Isaiah*

Music: *Thomas Merton*, Ray. W. Urwin (b. 1950)

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Hymn “Veni Sancte Spiritus”

Words: Pentecost Sequence; Taizé Community, 1978

Music: © 1979, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.

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Palm 30, “I will exalt You, Lord, my God, for You have lifted me”

Metrical setting by Timothy and Julie Tennant (Tune: Kingsfold)

All metrical versions of the psalms have been written by Tim and Julie Tennent to provide an open source psalter for public and private worship.

Hymn “Song at the Sea”

Words: Exodus 15: Niamh O’ Kelly-Fischer

Music: Niamh O’Kelly-Fischer © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.

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“Morning Has Broken” (hymn 8)

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“I Will Exalt You, Lord, my God, for You Have Lifted Me”

Psalms 30 - Metrical setting by Timothy and Julie Tennant (Tune: Kingsfold)

<http://psalms.seedbed.com/psalm-30/>

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“Bring Forth the Kingdom (You Are Salt For The Earth)”

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Hymn 207

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Hymn "City of God"
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A special thanks to Ron Werner-Wilson, St. Michael's; Owen Sammons, St. John's; Trillian Donahue and Dennis Clayton, St. Patrick's; and Kristi LaZur, Resurrection for their faithful ministry of recording, editing, and directing the video worship services for this week. Your ministry has kept us all together in God during this pandemic.

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