



EASTER DAY APRIL 5, 2026

10:00 A.M. SERVICE

St. Paul's Syracuse
The Downtown Episcopal Church

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#31. What is the reason for the large, single candle lit and placed in the center of the chancel during the Easter season?

The large candle in the center of the chancel is called the Paschal Candle. Episcopal Churches share this liturgical tradition with Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic Churches. The Paschal Candle is always the largest candle in the worship service, normally at least 24 inches tall, and at least 2 inches in diameter. It is decorated with symbols of Christ's presence and work among us, including a cross and the Greek letters alpha and omega. One might argue that, while all of the other candles in the worship space are more or less optional, the Paschal Candle is the only candle which is required for worship.

The lighting of the Paschal Candle is the first ritual of the Easter Vigil. After the Paschal Candle is lit the deacon or priest sings *The Exultet*, a hymn of praise describing God's work and Christ's work in bringing reconciliation and salvation to humankind. With *The Exultet* in mind, the Paschal Candle places God's saving work in the center of our worship throughout the Easter Season, up through the day of Pentecost.

The Paschal Candle is also lit at every baptism service. The symbolism of the Paschal Candle at baptism comes from St. Paul's description of our participation in Christ's work of kenosis, or self-emptying. In chapter six of Romans St. Paul describes the practice of Christians of emptying their lives of sins. Paul makes a connection between us emptying ourselves of the power of sin through baptism, and Christ's emptying of himself through his death: *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore 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.*

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org.

Fr. Philip +

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • *Cortège et Litanie*

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

The people are invited to stand.

HYMN 207 • “Jesus Christ is risen today”

Easter Hymn

HOLY BAPTISM

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God’s call to us;**
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LESSON • Jeremiah 31:1-6

Lector A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.
At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.
Thus says the LORD:
The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,
the LORD appeared to him from far away.
I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.
Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!
Again you shall take your tambourines,
and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.
Again you shall plant vineyards
on the mountains of Samaria;
the planters shall plant,
and shall enjoy the fruit.
For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:
"Come, let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God."

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

PSALM • 118:14-17, 22-23 *Confitemini Domino*

Peter Hallock (1924-2014)

The Antiphon is first sung by the Choir and repeated by All, and then as indicated.

Organ:



On this day the Lord has act - ed, we will re-joice and be glad in it.

The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous. *Antiphon*

"The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! the right hand of the LORD is exalted! the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!" I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. *Antiphon*

The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. *Antiphon*

EPISTLE • Colossians 3:1-4

Lector A reading from the letter to the Colossians.
If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN • 204 "Now the green blade riseth"

Noël nouvelet

Please remain standing.

HOLY GOSPEL • John 20:1-18

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

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

Celebrant Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he

saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*Celebrant
People*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Philip Major

A brief silence follows the sermon.

The people are invited to stand.

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Celebrant: The candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsor: We present Macie to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates and sponsors.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Macie in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

Let us join with Macie in committing ourselves to Christ as we renew our own baptismal covenant.

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 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 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.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for Macie who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open her heart to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send her into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing her in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

Following the baptism, and marking with the sign of the cross, the priest continues

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

Celebrant Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

The people are invited to stand

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All

AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The breaking of the bread may be seen as the culminating activity of our worship. It is the ritual action symbolizing the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10-15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before the singing of the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-154

From *New Plainsong*; (b.1950)

The people are invited to be seated.

You are invited to consume the consecrated bread immediately after you receive it. If you choose to receive the wine, drink directly from the cup. We are not dipping the bread into the wine at this time. Our understanding is that the sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both.

^s

During the distribution of communion, Prayers for Healing and Wholeness may be offered at the Peace Altar.

ANTHEMS AT COMMUNION

“I know my redeemer liveth” (from Messiah)

Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1769)

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And thou worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

Laura Enslin, soprano

HYMN AT COMMUNION • 306 “Come risen Lord, and deign to be our guest”

Sursum Corda

The People are invited to stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant
All

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN 296 • “We know that Christ is raised and dies no more”

Engelberg

DISMISSAL

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • *Toccata* (Symphony V)

Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)

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Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul’s prayer leaders.*

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:

Destany W., Christian M., Ann D. & Mary S.

We remember those who have died in recent days: Kristy C.

Our thanks today for the...Altar Guild, Lay Readers, Ushers, Flower Guild, Choir and Fellowship Hosts.

Officers

2026

Senior Warden: Ieva Doyle
Junior Warden: Joe Russo
Treasurer: Doug Mouncey
Assistant Treasurer: Sandi Yingling
Clerk of the Vestry: Anita Wagner

Vestry & Team Leaders

2026: Jeanne Chu, Tim Cassavaw, DJ Igelsrud
2027: Willson Cummer, Isiah Lavender, Tim Simmons
2028: Joseph von Souder, Amy Mangram, Catherine Gerard
Finance Committee Chairperson: Joe Moorman
Children's Ministry Leader: Jeanne Avery
Worship Ministry Team Convener: Laurie Sanderson
Formation Ministry Team Convener: Jeanne Avery
Mission & Service Team Convener: Betsy Elkins
Community Fellowship Min. Convener: Liz Handler
Buildings & Grounds Chair: Bill Pitcher
Office Volunteers: Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Sandi Yingling

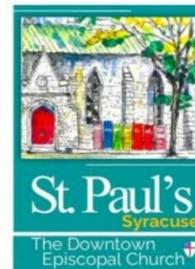
Staff

Bishop of Central NY: The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe
Rector of St. Paul's: The Reverend Philip Major
Organist & Choirmaster: James L. Potts
Operations Manager: Judy McAdoo-Pelton
Parish Assistant (Volunteer): Doug Mouncey
Technology Specialist: Mark King
Security: Derek Lane



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www.stpaulsyr.org



Easter Flower Memorials



In loving memory of Clara & Nathaniel Abbott and William & Virginia Elkins.
Given by Betsy Elkins

In loving memory of Philip & Elizabeth Chase, Charles and Laura Estabrook, Morris & Mary Chase, Stephen E. Chase and Hilda Broad
Given by Sara Chase

In loving memory of Andrew Besemer
Given by Tim Cassavaw

In loving memory of JoAnn Vidulich
Given by Tim Cassavaw

In loving memory of Neva Pilgrim, Jason Pilgrim and Jephtha M. Gates, Sr.
Given by Dick Pilgrim and Zada Hart Gates

In loving memory of Andrew Besemer
Given by Nicholas & Cathy Berry Lozoponi

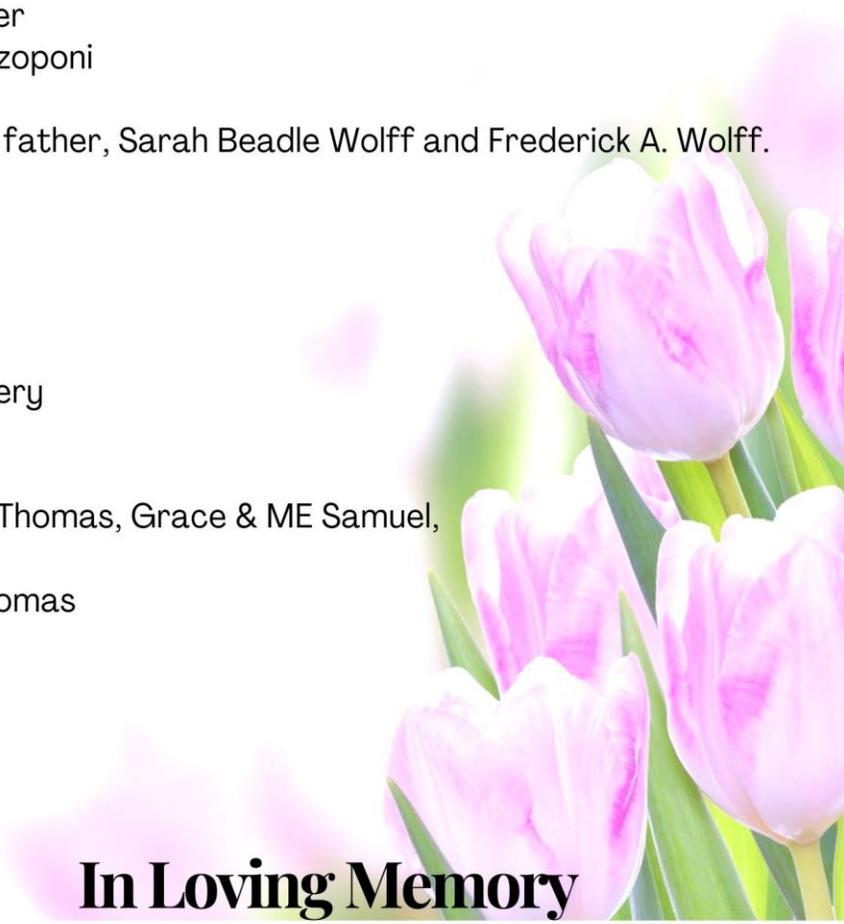
In loving memory of my mother and father, Sarah Beadle Wolff and Frederick A. Wolff.
Given by Cathy Wolff

In loving memory of Harry Lewis
Given by Sylvia Lewis

In loving memory of The Rev. Hal Avery
Given by Jeanne Avery

In loving memory of Aleykuty & KA Thomas, Grace & ME Samuel,
Norma & Quinn Pugh
Given by Derina Samuel and Roy Thomas

To the Glory of God
Given by Ieva & Jim Doyle



In Loving Memory