

First Reading: **A READING FROM GENESIS: Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac.**

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He 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." So 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. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then 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." Abraham 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. Isaac 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?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When 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. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He 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." And 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. So 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."

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I 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, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Reader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: **A READING FROM EXODUS: - Israel's**

Deliverance at the Red Sea

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 the Lord.**

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Third Reading: **A READING FROM EZEKIEL: A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT**

Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the LORD God: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Response: Psalm 42, Responsively by Half Verse

- 1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night,
**while all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God?”**
- 4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things;
**how I went with the multitude and led them into the
house of God,**
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving,
among those who keep holy-day.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 Put your trust in God;
**for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**
- 8 My soul is heavy within me;
**therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.**
- 9 One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts;
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.
- 10 The LORD grants his loving-kindness in the daytime;
**in the night season his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.**
- 11 I will say to the God of my strength,
**“Why have you forgotten me?
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy
oppresses me?”**
- 12 While my bones are being broken,
my enemies mock me to my face;
- 13 All day long they mock me
and say to me, “Where now is your God?”
- 14 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 15 Put your trust in God;
**for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

Second Psalm Response: Psalm 43, Responsively by Whole Verse

- 1 Give judgment for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people;
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- 2 **For you are the God of my strength;**
why have you put me from you?
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy
oppresses me?
- 3 Send out your light and your truth, that they may
lead me,
and bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling;
- 4 **That I may go to the altar of God,**
to the God of my joy and gladness;
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God
my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 6 **Put your trust in God;**
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my
God.

The Epistle: A Reading from Romans

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. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We 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. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 114, Responsively by Whole Verse

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 **Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel his dominion.**
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled;
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 **The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.**
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 **You mountains, that you skipped like rams?
you little hills like young sheep?**
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 **Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

Prayers of the People:

Deacon or Priest:

Filled with Joy on this royal feast of feasts, let us offer prayers to God who has given us the promise of new life in the risen life of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader:

For the holy churches of God, for those everywhere baptized this night, for Sean our Presiding Bishop; for Andy, Kai, Jeff, Hector, and Brian, our bishops; for our parish clergy and lay leaders; for this gathering, and all the holy people of God:

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the world and all people, for our nation and community and our leaders; for Donald our president, for Greg our governor, for Kirk our mayor, that they may be given to wise action for the common good:

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For victims of gun violence, for those marginalized and suffering in systems of oppression, for the dismantling of white supremacy and patriarchy; that the new life of the Resurrection may unravel all the ways we have damaged one another:

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all those in need, the suffering and the oppressed, travelers and prisoners, the dying, and the dead:

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all refugees, for ourselves, our families, and those we love:

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

That with Christ we may crush beneath our feet all the powers of evil:

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

That Christ may fill us with the joy and happiness of his holy resurrection:

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

That we may long for that heavenly feast of rich food and well-aged wines, with all those we love but see no longer, as the shroud of death is destroyed:

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering the most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ: To you, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant concludes with this or some other appropriate collect:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for the victory over death of your Son Jesus Christ. Hear the prayers we offer this holy day, and grant that we who have received new life in baptism may live for ever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen