

# THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

## At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Year A, B, C

Reading 1

**LONGER FORM**

The Creation story is well-known; it is part of our culture and deserves to be treated with the reverence and awe that its author intended. Although very long (a shorter version is available), take your time so that your listeners can put themselves in the role of onlooker as the pictures in the story develop. It will also be helpful to pay attention to the repetition of variations of "God saw how good it was" since the author intends that the entire universe is good. Use pausing between the "days" to help emphasize the significance of what happens in a given day. While the reading is "linear" (one thing is described then another and then another, etc.) it also builds in intensity to the creation of human beings as the crowning act. This intensity is not one of voice volume or pace but one of feeling within the lector.

**Citation: Genesis, Chap. 1, Verse 1 to Chap. 2, Verse 2**  
**Genesis 1: 1 - 2:2**

### A reading from the Book of Genesis

In the beginning, (very short pause)  
when God created the heavens and the earth, (very short pause)  
the earth was a formless wasteland,  
and darkness covered the abyss,  
while a mighty wind swept over the waters. (drag out "wind" so it sounds like it)

Then God said,  
"Let there be light," (very short pause)  
and there was light. (surprise!)  
God saw how good the light was. (very sincere) (short pause)

God then separated the light from the darkness. (very short pause)  
God called the light "day,"  
and the darkness he called "night."  
Thus evening came, and morning followed -- the first day. (short pause)

Then God said, (slightly different tone than 1<sup>st</sup> time)  
"Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters,  
to separate one body of water from the other." (slightly parenthetical)  
And so it happened: (surprise!)  
God made the dome,  
and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. (very short pause)  
God called the dome "the sky."  
Evening came, and morning followed -- the second day. (short pause)

Then God said, (go back to the tone of the 1<sup>st</sup> time)  
"Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin,  
so that the dry land may appear." (commanding)  
And so it happened: (slightly parenthetical)  
the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, (joyous surprise)  
and the dry land appeared. (very short pause)

## Proclamation Format

God called the dry land "the earth,"  
and the basin of the water he called "the sea."  
God saw how good it was.

(sincerely eager)

Then God said,

"Let the earth bring forth vegetation:  
every kind of plant that bears seed  
and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it."

(commanding for the entire sentence)

And so it happened:

(matter-of-fact surprise)

the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed  
and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it.

God saw how good it was.

(satisfaction)

Evening came, and morning followed -- the third day.

(short pause)

Then God said:

"Let there be lights in the dome of the sky,  
separate day from night.  
Let them mark the fixed times,  
the days and the years,  
and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky,  
to shed light upon the earth. "

(growing excitement to each  
phrase in these two  
sentences)

And so it happened:

(very short pause)

God made the two great lights,  
the greater one to govern the day,  
and the lesser one to govern the night;  
and he made the stars.

(almost stern)

(be excited – this is great!)

God set them in the dome of the sky,  
to shed light upon the earth,  
to govern the day and the night,  
and to separate the light from the darkness.

(you're explaining why this is so  
important - here and next sentence)

God saw how good it was.

(You'd see how good it was too!)

Evening came, and morning followed -- the fourth day.

(short pause)

Then God said,

"Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures,  
and on the earth  
let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky."

(almost matter-of-factly  
for both sentences)

And so it happened:

God created the great sea monsters  
and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems,  
and all kinds of winged birds.

God saw how good it was,  
and God blessed them, saying,

"Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas;  
and let the birds multiply on the earth."

(encouraging!)

Evening came, and morning followed -- the fifth day.

(short pause)

Then God said,

"Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures:  
creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds."

(majestic) cattle,  
(very short pause)

## Proclamation Format

And so it happened:

God made all kinds of wild animals,  
all kinds of cattle,  
and all kinds of creeping things of the earth.

(pick up pace more, each phrase)

God saw how good it was.

(almost awe)

Then God said:

"Let us make man in our image,  
after our likeness.

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air,  
and the cattle,

(almost granting permission)

and over all the wild animals  
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground. "

God created man in his image;  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

(proud; accomplishment!)

God blessed them, saying:

"Be fertile and multiply;  
fill the earth and subdue it.

(gently giving orders)

Have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air,  
and all the living things that move on the earth. "

(short pause)

God also said:

"See,

(do you see it?)

I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth  
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food;  
and to all the animals of the land,

all the birds of the air,  
and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground,

I give all the green plants for food. "

And so it happened.

God looked at everything he had made,  
and he found it very good.

(definite satisfaction)

Evening came, and morning followed -- the sixth day.

(Pause)

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed.

Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing,  
he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

## The word of the Lord.

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
**At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter**  
**Year A, B, C**

Reading 1

**SHORTER FORM**

**Citation: Genesis, Chap. 1, Verse 1, 26-31a**  
**Genesis 1: 1, 26-31a**

**A reading from the Book of Genesis**

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth,  
God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.  
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air, and the cattle,  
and over all the wild animals  
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

(very short pause)

God created man in his image;  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

(voice goes down)

God blessed them, saying:  
"Be fertile and multiply;  
fill the earth and subdue it.

(almost ordering it)

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,  
and all the living things that move on the earth."

(almost ordering it)

God also said:

"See,

("look," everybody!)

I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth  
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food;  
and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air,  
and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground,  
I give all the green plants for food."

(voice goes up at end of phrase)

(short pause)

And so it happened.

(surprise)

God looked at everything he had made,  
and he found it very good.

(almost matter-of-fact, but sincere)

(take time; each word separately)

**The word of the Lord.**

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
**At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter**  
**Year A, B, C**

Reading 2

**LONGER FORM**

This reading, also from Genesis, relates the story of God's test of Abraham and the establishment of the first covenant between God and humanity. This story is also a root of our cultural heritage and should be proclaimed with attention to the drama and human emotions it describes. It is very emotional (i.e. the aborted sacrifice of Isaac) and includes several different voices (God, Abraham, Isaac, the angel-messenger). The fear, yet trust, Abraham experiences as he prepares to sacrifice Isaac needs to come out. The relief Abraham must have felt at the staying if Isaac's sacrifice should be palpable in you and your listeners – it is only human, after all. How determined God becomes as He relates the future role of Abraham in the formation of God's people must also be evident. Take your time; as with any good story, giving your listeners time to paint a detailed picture of what is going on increases the power of the story.

**Citation: Genesis: Chap. 22, Verses 1-18**  
**Genesis 22: 1-18**

**A reading from the Book of Genesis**

God put Abraham to the test. (short pause)

He called to him,

"Abraham!"

(raise volume)

"Here I am," he replied.

(loud, but not as loud as God)

Then God said:

"Take your son Isaac,

(commanding)

your only one,

whom you love,

(sensitive)

and go to the land of Moriah.

(very short pause)

There

you shall offer him up as a holocaust  
on a height that I will point out to you."

(short pause)

Early the next morning

(almost matter-of-factly; very tone, pace)

Abraham saddled his donkey,

took with him his son Isaac and two of his servants as well,  
and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust,

set out for the place of which God had told him.

(short pause)

On the third day

Abraham got sight of the place from afar.

(very short pause)

Then he said to his servants:

"Both of you stay here with the donkey,

while the boy and I go on over yonder.

We will worship and then come back to you."

(short pause)

Thereupon

Abraham took the wood for the holocaust  
and laid it on his son Isaac's shoulders,

(almost disbelief)

## Proclamation Format

while he himself carried the fire and the knife.

As the two walked on together,  
Isaac spoke to his father Abraham:

"Father!"

Isaac said.

(very short pause)

"Yes, son," he replied.

Isaac continued,

"Here are the fire and the wood,  
but where is the sheep for the holocaust?"

(short pause)

"Son," Abraham answered,

"God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust."

(short pause)

Then the two continued going forward.

(very short pause)

When they came to the place of which God had told him,  
Abraham built an altar there  
and arranged the wood on it.

(short pause)

Next

he tied up his son Isaac,  
and put him on top of the wood on the altar.

(disbelief?)

(almost horror!)

Then

he reached out  
and took the knife  
to slaughter his son.

(Oh, NO!!)

(regret) (short pause)

But the LORD'S messenger called to him from heaven

(Thank God!!)

"Abraham, Abraham!"

(insistent; raise volume)

"Here I am," he answered.

(a bit of relief?)

"Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger.

(commanding)

"Do not do the least thing to him.

(insisting!)

I know now how devoted you are to God,  
since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son."

As Abraham looked about,  
he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket.  
So he went and took the ram  
and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

(surprise)

(almost a happy ending!)

Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh;  
hence people now say, "On the mountain the LORD will see."

(very short pause)

Again the LORD'S messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said:

"I swear by myself,

(authoritative voice thru-out)

declares the LORD,

that because you acted as you did

in not withholding from me your beloved son

I will bless you abundantly

and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky

**Proclamation Format**

and the sands of the seashore;  
your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies,  
and in your descendants  
all the nations of the earth shall find blessing --  
all this  
because you obeyed my command."

(short pause)  
(continue authority)

**The word of the Lord.**

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
**At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter**  
**Year A, B, C**

**Citation: Genesis: Chap. 22, Verses 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18**  
**Genesis 22: 1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18**

**A reading from the Book of Genesis**

God put Abraham to the test. (very short pause)

He called to him,

"Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

Then God said:

"Take your son Isaac,

(commanding but not stern)

your only one,

(some compassion

whom you love,

( " "

and go to the land of Moriah.

(commanding, again)

There you shall offer him up as a holocaust

( " "

on a height that I will point out to you."

( " (short pause)

When they came to the place of which God had told him,

(matter-of-factly)

Abraham built an altar there

(very short pause)

and arranged the wood on it.

( " "

Then

he reached out

(some alarm)

and took the knife

(more alarm)

to slaughter his son.

(fearful sadness)

But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven,

(increase pace; excited)

"Abraham, Abraham!"

(raise volume)

"Here I am," he answered.

(same volume level as above)

"Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger.

(slightly less volume but strong)

"Do not do the least thing to him.

(the alarm is over; quieter volume)

I know now how devoted you are to God,

since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son."

(very short pause)

As Abraham looked about,

(matter-of-factly)

he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket.

(almost relief?)

So he went and took the ram

and offered it up as a holocaust

in place of his son.

(short pause)

Again the Lord's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said:

"I swear by myself,

(strong; firm; authoritative throughout)

declares the LORD,

that because you acted as you did

in not withholding from me your beloved son,

(very short pause)

**Proclamation Format**

I will bless you abundantly  
and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky  
and the sands of the seashore;  
your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies,  
and in your descendants  
all the nations of the earth shall find blessing  
all this  
because you obeyed my command."

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

(satisfaction)

**The word of the Lord.**

# THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

## At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

### Year A-B-C

Reading 3

The Exodus reading describes the escape of the Israelites from Egypt. It is an appropriate follow-up to the description of the Passover from Holy Thursday. Further, it cements our cultural expectation that God indeed cares for His creatures. Take your time and tell the story with the +sense of awe, excitement, confidence and triumph the Exodus author intended to develop in and for his audience.

**Citation: Exodus: Chap. 14, Verse 15 to Chap. 15, Verse 1**  
**Exodus 14: 15 -15:1**

#### A reading from the Book of Exodus

The LORD said to Moses,  
"Why are you crying out to me? (exasperated?) (very short pause)  
Tell the Israelites to go forward. (firm)

And you,  
lift up your staff  
and, with hand outstretched over the sea, (disregard comma after "and")  
split the sea in two,  
that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. (very short pause)

But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate  
that they will go in after them. (confident [of strategy])  
Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army,  
his chariots and charioteers.  
The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD,  
when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers." (short pause)

The angel of God,  
who had been leading Israel's camp, (parenthetical)  
now moved  
and went around behind them.  
The column of cloud also,  
leaving the front,  
took up its place behind them,  
so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. (almost parenthetical)

But the cloud now became dark, (menacing)  
and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together  
all night long. (drag this out a bit)

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,  
and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind (say "wind" like it sounds)  
throughout the night  
and so turned it into dry land. (surprised? wonder?)

When the water was thus divided,  
the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, (confident)  
with the water like a wall (awesome?)

## Proclamation Format

to their right  
and to their left.

(short pause)

The Egyptians followed in pursuit;  
all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them  
right into the midst of the sea.

(pick up pace; menacing)  
(increase pace a bit)  
(slow down a bit; excited)

In the night watch just before dawn  
the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force  
a glance that threw it into a panic;  
and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive.

(almost parenthetical)  
(matter-of-fact)  
(very short pause)

With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel,  
because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

(“Oh, Oh”?)

Then the LORD told Moses,  
"Stretch out your hand over the sea,  
that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians,  
upon their chariots and their charioteers."

(commanding, almost flat voice)

(very short pause)

So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,  
and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth.  
The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea,  
when the LORD hurled them into its midst.

(matter-of-factly  
( “  
( “  
(firmness, finality in voice)

As the water flowed back,  
it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army  
which had followed the Israelites into the sea.

(amazement?)

Not a single one of them escaped.  
But the Israelites had marched on dry land  
through the midst of the sea,  
with the water like a wall  
to their right and to their left.  
Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day  
from the power of the Egyptians.

(excited amazement)  
(excited)  
(amazement)  
( “  
(short pause)  
(gratefulness) (short pause)

When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore  
and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians,  
they feared the LORD  
and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

(some fear in voice?  
( “

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:  
I will sing to the LORD,  
for he is gloriously triumphant;  
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

(very short pause)  
(joyfulness; gratitude  
( “  
( “

## The word of the Lord.

# THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

## At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

### Year A-B-C

Reading 4

The Isaiah reading relates what God went through in His feelings for the Israelites (humanity) given their self-centered behavior over the centuries after the Exodus. He regrets, now, His anger and actions in the past toward His people and how He realizes they will always be the object of His Love. It is similar to what parents go through and feel when their children leave home and make unfortunate choices in their lives but realize them and come back home for the familiarity, warmth, security and love of the family. Keep these feelings and thoughts in mind as you prepare this proclamation. From our cultural perspective God is emphatically stating that He will never abandon his creation; that He knows humanity will ultimately choose appropriately and correctly.

**Citation: Isaiah: Chap. 54, Verses 5-14**  
**Isaiah 54: 5-14**

#### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The One who has become your husband  
is your Maker;  
his name is the LORD of hosts;

(very short pause)  
(very short pause)  
(short pause)

your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,  
called God of all the earth.

(very short pause)  
(short pause)

The LORD calls you back,  
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,  
a wife married in youth and then cast off,  
says your God.

(sad  
( “  
(very short pause)

For a brief moment I abandoned you,  
but with great tenderness I will take you back.

(very short pause)  
(short pause)

In an outburst of wrath,  
for a moment  
I hid my face from you;  
but with enduring love I take pity on you,  
says the LORD, your redeemer.

(faster pace; slight anger?)  
  
(regret?)  
(tenderness)  
(short pause)

This is for me like the days of Noah,  
when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth;  
so I have sworn not to be angry with you,  
or to rebuke you.

(regret)  
(remorseful)  
(firmly calm)  
(short pause)

Though the mountains leave their place  
and the hills be shaken,  
my love shall never leave you  
nor my covenant of peace be shaken,  
says the LORD,  
who has mercy on you.

(firmly convinced!)  
( “  
( “  
( “  
  
(very short pause)

O afflicted one,  
storm-battered and unconsoled,

(apologetic but determined)  
(some remorse?)

## Proclamation Format

I lay your pavements in carnelians,  
and your foundations in sapphires;  
I will make your battlements of rubies,  
your gates of carbuncles,  
and all your walls of precious stones.

All your children shall be taught by the LORD,  
and great shall be the peace of your children.

In justice shall you be established,  
far from the fear of oppression,  
where destruction cannot come near you.

**The word of the Lord.**

(convinced!  
( “ (very short pause)

( “  
( “ (short pause)

(encouraging)  
( “

(almost parenthetical)

# THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

## At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

### Year A, B, C

Reading 5

Again from Isaiah, but a later place in his writing, God is portrayed as the one who raises up leaders from among the people, particularly one leader who will lead all of humanity back to God. God is speaking, describing what He will do for those who turn toward him. He reminds us of his generosity and love. At the same time, he explains why He is so generous and loving – He has made a covenant with Israel and He will keep his side of the bargain no matter what! In fact, He says, He is very confident that humanity will turn back toward him simply because He knows why He created these creatures. There is no arrogance here. Sincerity, encouragement, and instruction run all through the passage. Be that sincere, encouraging, patient teacher that God is.

**Citation: Isaiah: Chap. 55, Verses 1-11**  
**Isaiah 55: 1-11**

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty,  
come to the water!

(very short pause)

(be sincere; raise volume a bit?) (very short pause)

You who have no money,  
come, receive grain and eat;  
come, without paying and without cost,  
drink wine and milk!

(very short pause)

(again sincere)

(gently urging)

(assurance) (very short pause)

Why spend your money for what is not bread,  
your wages for what fails to satisfy?

(be the wise man speaking these lines)

(very short pause)

Heed me, and you shall eat well,  
you shall delight in rich fare.

(assurance, again)

( “ (very short pause)

Come to me heedfully,  
listen, that you may have life.

(a serious note)

(convinced)

I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,  
the benefits assured to David.

(assurance)

(very short pause)

As I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander of nations,  
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,  
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,  
because of the LORD,  
your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
who has glorified you.

(not quite parenthetical)

( “

(very positive)

( “

(majestic – rest of sentence)

(short pause)

Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call him while he is near.

(urging, encouraging)

( “ (short pause)

Let the scoundrel forsake his way,  
and the wicked man his thoughts;

(admonishing?)

## Proclamation Format

let him turn to the LORD for mercy;  
to our God,  
who is generous in forgiving.

(convinced)

(short pause)

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

(God speaking; different tone?)

As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so high are my ways above your ways  
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

(Isaiah speaking; another tone?)

(short pause)

For just as from the heavens  
the rain and snow come down  
and do not return there till they have watered the earth,  
making it fertile and fruitful,  
giving seed to the one who sows  
and bread to the one who eats,  
so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;

(a “teaching” voice - remainder)

(very short pause)

my word shall not return to me void,  
but shall do my will,  
achieving the end for which I sent it.

(slight rise in volume)

(a bit more volume) (very short pause)

(maintain volume)

**The word of the Lord.**

# THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

## At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

### Year A, B, C

Reading 6

Baruch is the advice giver. Be the kindly, knowledgeable, firm Baruch as you proclaim. He outlines Israel's plight, first, and then reminds them that if they take to heart his advice their circumstances will dramatically change for the better.

Citation: Baruch: Chap. 3, Verses 9-15, 32 to Chap.4, Verse 4  
Baruch 3: 9-15, 32 - 4:4

#### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch

Hear, O Israel,

the commandments of life:

listen,

and know prudence!

(volume a bit above normal – this sentence)

(very short pause)

(short pause)

How is it,

Israel,

that you are in the land of your foes,

grown old in a foreign land,

defiled with the dead,

accounted with those destined for the netherworld?

(questioning tone of voice)

(almost parenthetical)

(increase urgency these 4 lines)

(very short pause)

You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom!

(the “answer” – be firm, insisting)

Had you walked in the way of God,

you would have dwelt in enduring peace.

(not “told you so”; be gentle)

(very short pause)

Learn where prudence is,

where strength,

where understanding;

that you may know also where are length of days,

and life,

where light of the eyes,

and peace.

(urging tone) (very short pause)

“

“

“

“

“

(almost parenthetical)

“

(almost parenthetical)

Who has found the place of wisdom,

who has entered into her treasures?

(Questioning tone [but answer is known!])

(very short pause)

The One who knows all things knows her;

he has probed her by his knowledge

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

the One who established the earth for all time,

and filled it with four-footed beasts;

he who dismisses the light,

and it departs,

calls it,

and it obeys him trembling;

before whom the stars at their posts shine and rejoice;

(be proud)

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

## Proclamation Format

when he calls them,  
they answer, "Here we are!"  
shining with joy for their Maker.

(short pause)

Such is our God;  
no other is to be compared to him:  
he has traced out the whole way of understanding,  
and has given her to Jacob, his servant,  
to Israel, his beloved son.  
Since then  
she has appeared on earth,  
and moved among people.

(be proud for this section)

She is the book of the precepts of God,  
the law that endures forever;  
all who cling to her will live,  
but those will die who forsake her.

(very short pause)

(take your time – this section)

Turn, O Jacob, and receive her:  
walk by her light toward splendor.

(very short pause)  
(voice goes down) (short pause)

(urgent tone – remainder)

Give not your glory to another,  
your privileges to an alien race.

(voice gradually goes up)  
( “

Blessed are we, O Israel;  
for what pleases God is known to us!

(convinced; proud)

**The word of the Lord.**

# THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

## At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Year A-B-C

Reading 7

This reading is similar to the first Isaiah reading but with a different twist. Ezekiel sees that God is not regretting what He did to the Israelites in the past. This is a much more adult God who understands that in order to gain the admiration and fidelity of all of humanity He must protect His reputation as all powerful, wise, generous, etc among the Israelites. Despite what Israel has done He will lead the people back to their land as proof to the rest of humanity that He can and does ensure what He promises. The reading starts out on a note of anger but shifts to confidence, particularly as Ezekiel speaks in place of God. It concludes on a note of pride and awe.

**Citation: Ezekiel, Chap. 36, Verses 16-17a, 18-28**

**Ezekiel 36: 16":17a, 18-28**

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

The word of the LORD came to me, saying:

Son of man,

when the house of Israel lived in their land,  
they defiled it by their conduct and deeds.

(very short pause)

(raise volume a bit)

(normal volume & tone)

(short pause)

Therefore I poured out my fury upon them  
because of the blood that they poured out on the ground,  
and because they defiled it with idols.

(some anger?)

(very short pause)

I scattered them among the nations,  
dispersing them over foreign lands;  
according to their conduct and deeds I judged them.

(continue some anger)

(very short pause)

(short pause)

But when they came among the nations  
wherever they came,  
they served to profane my holy name,  
because it was said of them:

(now you're a Narrator)

(parenthetical expression)

"These are the people of the LORD,  
yet they had to leave their land."

(very short pause)

(Pause)

So I have relented  
because of my holy name  
which the house of Israel profaned  
among the nations where they came.

(parenthetical?)

(very short pause)

Therefore say to the house of Israel:  
Thus says the Lord GOD:

(very short pause)

Not for your sakes do I act,  
house of Israel,

(God speaking; slight anger?)

but for the sake of my holy name,  
which you profaned among the nations to which you came.

(very short pause)

I will prove the holiness of my great name,  
profaned among the nations,  
in whose midst you have profaned it.

(very firm; confident – this section)

## Proclamation Format

Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord God,  
when in their sight

I prove my holiness through you.

(stress the phrasing) (very short pause)

For I will take you away from among the nations,

gather you from all the foreign lands,

and bring you back to your own land,

(very short pause)

I will sprinkle clean water upon you

to cleanse you from all your impurities,

and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

(voice goes down) (very short pause)

I will give you a new heart

(very positive)

and place a new spirit within you,

taking from your bodies

your stony hearts

and giving you natural hearts.

(very short pause)

I will put my spirit within you

(encouraging)

and make you live by my statutes,

careful to observe my decrees.

(very short pause)

You shall live in the land I gave your fathers;

(very short pause)

you shall be my people,

(very short pause)

and I will be your God.

(“God” in an awesome tone)

**The word of the Lord.**

# THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

## At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

### Year A-B-C

#### Epistle

(Reading 8)

St. Paul makes an impassioned statement about Christ's, and God's, new covenant with humanity in this passage from his letter to the Romans. We are now in possession of a new "self" as the result of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. This new "self" commits itself to doing the Will of God as reflected by Christ's conquest of death in accordance with God's Will. We are now free – free to pursue God's Kingdom in accordance with Jesus' teachings. Be Paul!

**Citation: Romans: Chap. 6, Verses 3-11**

**Romans 6: 3-11**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

(get listeners' attention!) (short pause)

Are you unaware that we  
who were baptized into Christ Jesus  
were baptized into his death?

(increasing questioning tone)

(short pause)

We were indeed buried with him  
through baptism into death,  
so that,  
just as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
we too might live in newness of life.

(strong declaration)

( “

(parenthetical expression)

(very short pause)

For if we have grown into union with him  
through a death like his,  
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

(stronger declaration)

(parenthetical expression)

(very short pause)

We know that our old self was crucified with him,  
so that our sinful body might be done away with,  
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.  
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

(short pause)

(parenthetical)

(parenthetical?) (very short pause)

(convinced!)

If, then,  
we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we shall also live with him.

(very short pause)

We know that Christ,  
raised from the dead,  
dies no more;  
death no longer has power over him.

(very certain; convinced)

As to his death,  
he died to sin  
once  
and for all;  
as to his life,

(voice goes up, questioning)

(convinced) (very short pause)

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

**Proclamation Format**

he lives for God.

**(short pause)**

Consequently,  
you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin  
and living for God  
in Christ Jesus.

**(very short pause)**

**The word of the Lord.**

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
**At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter**  
**Year C**

GOSPEL

*Citation:* Luke, Chap. 24, Verses 1-12  
Luke 24: 1-12

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

At daybreak  
on the first day of the week (parenthetical)  
the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus  
took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. (very short pause)

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; (some surprise)  
but when they entered,  
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. (amazing!)

While they were puzzling over this,  
behold,  
two men in dazzling garments (WOW!)  
appeared to them. (very short pause)

They were terrified (wouldn't you be?)  
and bowed their faces to the ground. (short pause)

They said to them,  
"Why do you seek the living one among the dead? (questioning)  
He is not here,  
but he has been raised. (very short pause)

Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, (solicitous)  
that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners (factual)  
and be crucified,  
and rise on the third day."

And they remembered his words. (soft, dreamy tone)

Then they returned from the tomb (quicken your pace)  
and announced all these things to the eleven  
and to all the others. (slightly slower)

The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; (factual)  
the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles,  
but their story seemed like nonsense (skeptical men!)  
and they did not believe them. (almost discouraged)

But Peter (AHA!)

**Proclamation Format**

got up and ran to the tomb,  
bent down,  
and saw the burial cloths alone;  
then he went home amazed at what had happened.

(urgency)

(growing amazement)

(two stresses)

**The Gospel of the Lord.**