

## Readings Easter Vigil

### **FIRST READING Exodus 14:15 – 15:1**

The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me?  
Tell the Israelites to go forward.  
And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea,  
split the sea in two,  
that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land.  
But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate  
that they will go in after them.  
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."

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp,  
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.  
But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed  
without the rival camps coming any closer together  
all night long.  
Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,  
and the LORD swept the sea  
with a strong east wind throughout the night  
and so turned it into dry land.  
When the water was thus divided,  
the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land,  
with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit;  
all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them  
right into the midst of the sea.  
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.  
With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel,  
because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

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."  
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.  
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.  
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.  
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.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

#### **SECOND READING Isaiah 54:5-14**

The One who has become your husband is your Maker;  
his name is the LORD of hosts;  
your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,  
called God of all the earth.  
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.  
For a brief moment I abandoned you,  
but with great tenderness I will take you back.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsolated,  
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.

### **THIRD READING Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28**

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.  
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.  
I scattered them among the nations,  
dispersing them over foreign lands;  
according to their conduct and deeds I judged them.  
But when they came among the nations wherever they came,  
they served to profane my holy name,  
because it was said of them: "These are the people of the LORD,  
yet they had to leave their land."  
So I have relented because of my holy name  
which the house of Israel profaned  
among the nations where they came.  
Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD:  
Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel,  
but for the sake of my holy name,  
which you profaned among the nations to which you came.  
I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations,  
in whose midst you have profaned it.  
Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD,  
when in their sight I prove my holiness through you.  
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.  
I will sprinkle clean water upon you  
to cleanse you from all your impurities,  
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.  
I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you,  
taking from your bodies your stony hearts  
and giving you natural hearts.  
I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes,  
careful to observe my decrees.  
You shall live in the land I gave your fathers;  
you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

#### **FOURTH READING Romans 6:3-11**

Brothers and sisters:

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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