

Easter Vigil - Gen 1:1-2:2, Gen 22:1-18, Ex 14:15-15:1, Rom 6:3-11, Mt 28:1-10  
By: Fr. Paul Magyar

The easter vigil takes us from darkness to light, from death to new life. From the thirst of the 40 day lenten desert to the quenching waters of baptism. When we open up the bible we first read how God creates the universe. God's name is YHWH which means, "I am" the "One who brings into existence." God creates by using His word, sound and language. God speaks into the chaos of the void and habitable order starts to be formed. God creates the garden of Eden which means "well watered place" because it has 4 rivers flowing into it. Eden is also called Paradise which in latin means "walled garden." God creates Adam and Eve, human beings within that garden. We are all raised in the garden of Eden because our parents protect us from the suffering out in the rest of the world in order to teach us the most important lesson: how to love life.

During this time of crisis we might feel like Noah isolated in the Ark awaiting the flood of the virus to subside.

Abraham loved his son Isaac, he waited 100 years for him to be born. God leads Abraham and his son Isaac to mount Moriah which means "to see and provide." God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham lays down the wood on the altar in order, showing that valuable sacrifice brings forth a good future. However God prevents Abraham from sacrificing Isaac, he opens his eyes and reveals to him a ram caught in a thorn-bush. Abraham sacrifices the ram on the same spot where about 2200 years later Jesus is crucified on the cross on Golgotha on mount Moriah.

Moses "the master of water" trusting in God's word rescues the Israelites from the plagues and tyranny of Egypt, through the red sea and into the desert. YHWH proves victorious as the one and only God. It is through the 40 year struggle in the desert where Judaism is established with the passing of God's law.

In the Gospel of Matthew we hear how Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, witness the angel coming down from heaven, causing an earthquake and rolling back the stone of Jesus' tomb. A similar earthquake happens when the first drop of Jesus' blood falls on the ground when He dies on the cross that causes an earthquake and the ground and the temple curtain splits (Mt 27:51). The earthquake also caused all the tombs to be opened and the dead were raised to life and after Jesus' resurrection they went into Jerusalem and appeared to many people (Mt 27:52-53).

The angel explains to them that Jesus has risen and they are to go and proclaim the good news to the disciples. Then Jesus appears and tells them that he will meet all of them back home in Galilee. Easter is about coming back home to where our heart is where Christ is in our catholic lives.

Blessed Easter ! Christ is risen ! Truly risen ! - Fr. Paul Magyar