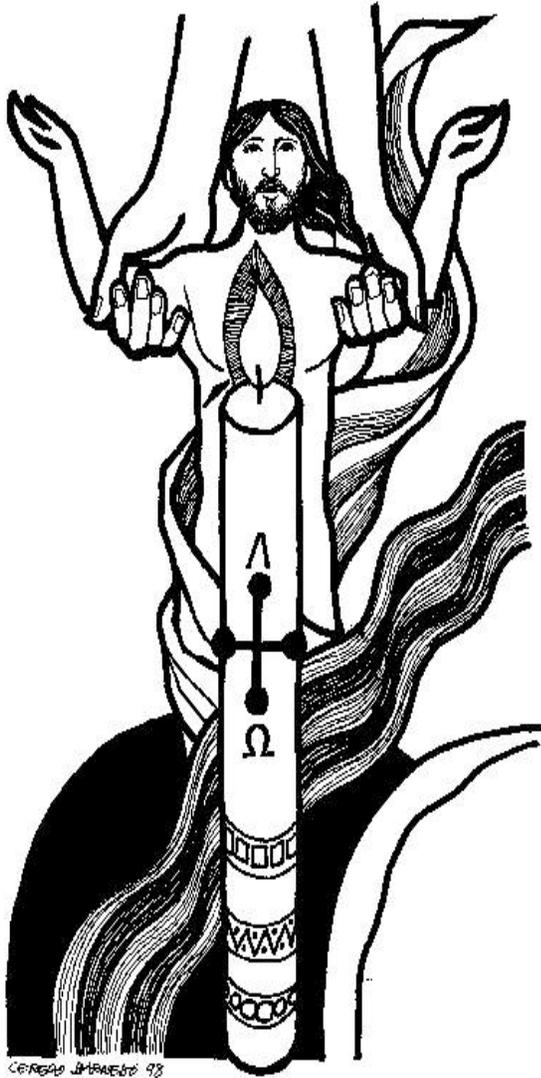


## CELEBRATING NEW LIFE

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!  
Philippians 4:4



(In preparation for this service, have a tall lighted candle and a bowl of water in a prominent place.)

Dance in the darkness, slow be the  
pace.  
Surrender to the rhythm of redeeming  
grace.

Jesus, Lord of weakness, we wait in  
joyful hope.  
See our weakness, be our strength.  
Jesus, be our light.  
Carey Landry, © 1977, NALR

"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection"  
(Romans 6:3-5).

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

People of God prepare yourselves to meet the Lord your God.  
The Good News of Jesus is a burst of fire flaming within our hearts.  
The Good News of Jesus is a flash of light bringing an end to night.  
The Good News proclaimed by Jesus is a song of love spreading His  
joy on earth. Alleluia! Alleluia!



Thank You, Lord, for the love, the assurance, the hope and the joy You give us all our lives. May we always, and at every age, celebrate Your goodness and live fully for You, In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Romans 8: 11, 31-39

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through His Spirit that dwells in you.

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

He Who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, how will He not also give us everything else along with Him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God Who acquits us.

Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, Who also is at the right hand of God, Who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through Him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



We are the family of God united through Baptism.

John 4: 5 – 26

So He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from His journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How can You, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and Who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water."

The woman) said to him, "Sir, You do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."...

The woman said to Him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the One called the Anointed; when He comes, He will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am He, the One Who is speaking with you."

### CHOOSE LIFE

○ Lord, You came to bring us life that we might have it more and more.

We who share Your love, Your life, we choose life.

You set before us life or death: a blessing or a curse.

We choose life that we may live in the land of the living forever.

For it is You, Lord, that we choose;

You Who bring abundant life.

To whom else, Lord, can we go?

You are the Way, the Truth, and the life.

## REFLECTION

### THE SERVANT OF LIFE

Jesus is the Servant of God through Whom God gave new life to the world. All that was old, sinful and decaying in human life was capable after God raised Him from the dead of being refreshed and restored. The Servant who went in obedience to His death was the Prince, the Leader, the Pioneer, the Author of Life Whom God raised from the dead. He Who had been the Lord of Life from the beginning of creation, became the Servant of Life.

### BAPTISM, RESURRECTION AND NEW LIFE

It is especially significant to have a baptism in the Easter season. Baptism marks the beginning of a new life of belonging to Christ and being a member of His body the Church. Just as Christ was raised to a renewal of life, so as we are made members of His body we too may have our lives renewed. [Romans 6:3-4]

**B**aptism is the rite of initiation into the fellowship of Christ, whatever the age or the situation of the person who is beginning the life of faith in Christ. "Christening" is simply the old English word that was often used for Baptism: it meant making someone a Christian, and that was done by baptizing the person whether they were young or old.

### IT IS A GIFT OF GOD

**W**e are related to Christ, and to God through Him, because He took the initiative and reached out to us. [John 3:16] A great new beginning is possible for us because God in Christ put an end to the old ways and opened up a new way when Christ died and rose again. [Romans 5:8]. It is a free gift for renewal. [2 Corinthians 5:17-19]

### WE ARE JOINED WITH CHRIST IN FAITH

**T**he second important thing about our relationship with Christ, after the fact that it is a gift of God, is that it is a relationship of faith. Baptism properly marks the beginning of faith in Christ. There are two important things to think about here: faith itself is a gift of God; and faith is a matter of trust which even little children can have. [Ephesians 2:8; 4:4-6].

### PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH

**W**hen we were baptized, we were baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.

In the light of the covenant promise and of our request or the request of our parents, we do believe that the gospel enables us to turn from the darkness of evil and to walk in the light of Christ.

(L) Do you believe in our God Who made us and loves us?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

(L) Do you believe in Jesus Christ, your Savior and Lord?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

(L) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, and the continuing work of our salvation?

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. Amen.

*(At this time, each person is invited to come to the bowl of water and sign themselves in the name of the Trinity or an appointed person can make the Sign of the cross on each person's palm or forehead while saying: "Rejoice in the Lord for you are redeemed and sanctified.")*

HYMN Celebrate

Take this water and bless it, Lord

Take this water and make it a living sign, Lord.

Flowing gently on our heads,

Symbol that we once were dead

But live again.

Celebrate the dying unto sin.

Rising up, a new life to begin,

Cleansed and purified before the Lord

His children now, no longer on our own,

Now His Holy Spirit in us sown,

Seeds of truth to spread abroad.

Take us and bless us, Lord.

Take us and sanctify us, Lord.

Help us grow into the one Image of Your Holy Son.

Take us, Your people, and bless us, Lord.

Take us, Your people and consecrate us, Lord.

Make our witness strong and true,

Always faithful unto You,

Celebrating our baptismal life at this Paschal time of the year, with the lengthening of days, invites us to acknowledge our call into the light, and to be light in the inner and outer darkness that is so prevalent in our time; we are invited to share the inheritance of the saints in light (Colossians 1:12).

#### INTERCESSIONS

Response: LORD OF LIFE, HEAR US.

That all who have been baptized in You, O Christ, may be faithful to their commitment, we pray:

That the newly baptized will find encouragement and spiritual growth in the Christian community, we pray:

That those who seek to receive the sacrament of Baptism but are prevented from doing so, will keep their eyes fixed on You, Lord, we pray:

That those who fail to live their Baptismal commitment or who do not know of it, will, by the Spirit of God, come to know of their previous dedication to the Lord, we pray:

That all those who act as godparents will take their obligations seriously to help their godchildren to grow in the faith, we pray:

That we may always and everywhere be “Alleluia People” who praise and thank You, O God, for the gift of Baptism, we pray:

#### PRAYER

God, our creator, you gave us the gift of light and put constraints on darkness. You reveal yourself as Light to guide our lives in justice and love. Strengthen our hearts with insight to be faithful to Your Word revealed to us through Jesus. Enlighten our minds dulled by over-work, despondency or inattentiveness, to be people of faith and hope in living out our Christian call especially at this Easter time. This prayer we make through Jesus Christ, the True Light Who has come into our world. Amen.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
help us to proclaim the goodness of the Lord.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!