

THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE

UNIT 6

CHRIST IS RISEN

Lesson 8

Liturgy: The Easter Vigil

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Lesson Overview

Students will participate in their very own Easter Vigil liturgy using the Paschal Candles that they created.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Religious Education:

Grade 4:

PR2.3: Develop and present using different forms of prayer and some of the common prayers and devotions of the Church, liturgical celebrations that reveal the Mystery of Christ as it unfolds in the seasons of the liturgical year (e.g. Mary – rosary, Sacred Heart, etc.). [CCC nos. 2617-2619; 2673-2679]

Grade 5:

PR2.1: Identify and use various means to enter into and experience vocal prayer (i.e. personal and communal, music, rosary, stations of the cross, novena, litanies), meditative prayer using various biblical passages (e.g. the Beatitudes, Jesus' prayer of petition while on the cross – Father forgive them..., Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane) and contemplative prayer (i.e. silence, images e.g. icons, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament). [CCC nos. 2697-2724]

Grade 6:

BL2.3: Describe through examples how the Church has handed on Revelation regarding the Incarnation through Tradition (e.g. preaching of the Word, celebration of the sacraments, catechesis, prayers and devotions). [CCC nos. 456-511]

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations evident in this lesson include:

CGE1f: Seeks intimacy with God and celebrates Communion with God, others and creation through prayer and Worship

CGE1c: Actively reflects on God's Word as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures

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GUIDING QUESTIONS (coming out of the Big Idea)

Big Idea:

Prayer has many forms and expressions found in Scripture and Tradition – blessing and adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise, vocal, meditative, and contemplative.

- Which forms of prayer can be found in the Easter Vigil?
- Which forms of prayer appeal to me?

LEARNING GOALS

At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:

- participate actively and consciously in an Easter Vigil liturgy
- recognize that there are many forms of prayer in a liturgy

Success Criteria, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the “look-fors”) in relation to curriculum expectations.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT

Terminology:

- Solemn Beginning of the Vigil
- Liturgy of the Word
- Baptismal Liturgy
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Exsultet
- Solemn Blessing
- Solemn Dismissal

Materials:

- Paschal Candles (*from Lesson 4*)
- Computer & Speakers
- Bells (optional)

Resources: (see attached Appendices)

- Easter Vigil Liturgy (*see Appendix 1*)
- Scripture readings (*see Appendix 2*)
- Prayer of the Faithful (*see Appendix 3*)

MINDS ON

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

Inform students that they will be participating in a mock Easter Vigil today. Students will need their Paschal Candles for the liturgy, as they will be using them for the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil. Each student will experience the preparation of the Paschal Candle.

Set up the classroom in a manner that is conducive to an effective liturgy.

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ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

Note: Inviting the school's parish priest to the vigil would be an excellent way to support the parish-school relationship. The priest would be able to preside, and would be able to answer any questions that the students may still have about the Vigil.

1. 8-10 Student volunteers will be required for the following roles:
 - a) First reading (this reading may require multiple volunteers due to length)
 - b) Second Reading
 - c) Prayer of the Faithful (6 volunteers).

It would be best to provide volunteers with their readings (Resources 2 & 3) in advance.
2. It may be beneficial to provide each student with a copy of the Easter Vigil Liturgy (*Appendix 1*), which will provide them with many of the prayers and rituals used at the actual Easter Vigil.
3. Follow *Appendix 1* to celebrate the liturgy.

CONSOLIDATION

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

If time remains, ask students if they have any questions about the Easter Vigil that remain unanswered (*if a priest is present, it would appropriate for the students to ask Him the questions*).

- Ask the students which part of the vigil they enjoyed the most, and why.

CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

- Students may identify the specific forms of prayer that are found in the Easter Vigil.
- Students identify which forms of prayer they prefer and are able explain why.

Easter Vigil Liturgy

(Adapted from the Roman Missal)

Note: This Easter Vigil Liturgy is intended to familiarize the students with the prayers and rituals that take place in Catholic Churches across the world, every year at the Easter Vigil. Due to time constraints and the needs of each student, this liturgy may need further modification to best suit the students in your care. In the absence of a priest, the teacher may preside in this liturgy.

THE SOLEMN BEGINNING OF THE VIGIL

Environment: The liturgy should begin with the lights off. If a video of a fire can be displayed in the background, it would be appropriate to do so for the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil.

Presider: In the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Presider: Dear brothers and sisters, on this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to His word and celebrating His mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing His triumph over death and living with Him in God.

Blessing of the Fire:

Presider: Let us pray. O God, who through Your Son bestowed upon the faithful the fire of Your glory, sanctify this new fire, we pray, and grant that, by these paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires, that with minds made pure we may attain festivities of unending splendor.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Preparation of the Paschal Candle:

All pick up their Paschal Candles for the preparation.

The tracing will be done with the index finger.

All:

1. Christ yesterday and today (trace a vertical line on top of the cross);
2. the Beginning and the End (trace a horizontal line on the cross);
3. the Alpha (trace on the Alpha symbol);
4. and the Omega (trace on the Omega symbol).
5. All time belongs to Him (trace the 2 in the upper left corner of the cross);
6. and all the ages (trace the 0 in the upper right corner of the cross);
7. To Him be glory and power (trace the third number in the lower left corner of the cross);
8. through every age and for ever. Amen (trace the fourth number in the lower right corner of the cross).

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All touch each wound on the cross of their candle, while saying:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. By His holy | | 1 | |
| 2. and glorious wounds, | | | |
| 3. may Christ the Lord | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 4. guard us | | | |
| 5. and protect us. Amen. | | 3 | |

Presider: May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.
(if the candles can be lit with a tea light, it is appropriate to do so at this time)

Presider: The Light of Christ!
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Presider: The Light of Christ!
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Presider: The Light of Christ!
All: **Thanks be to God.**

All the lights may be turned on at this point.

The Exsultet:

All listen to the Exsultet (the Easter Proclamation).

Note: It may be appropriate to shorten the song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyEAsiDjFP4>

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Presider: Dear brothers and sisters, now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us meditate on how God in times past saved His people and in these, the last days, has sent us His Son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption.

First Reading: Exodus 14:15-15: 1 (see resource 2): *To be read by a student*

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Gloria:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOk6kql1CFc>

Note: If bells are available, it would be engaging for students to be able to ring bells throughout the song while singing. If the sound of the bells throughout the entire song would be too overwhelming, the bells can be rung only through the refrain.

Second Reading: Romans 6:3-11 (see Appendix 2): *To be read by a student*

Gospel: Luke 24:1-12 (see Appendix 2): *To be read by the presider*

BAPTISMAL LITURGY

The Litany of the Saints:

Option 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWt5y301BSY> (contemporary)

Note: Prior to playing option 1, begin with the following:

Presider: Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Presider: Christ have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

Presider: Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Option 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LI7tHS6zneE> (traditional)

All participate in the litany by singing the response: "Pray for us"

Profession of Faith:

Presider: Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with Him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

Presider: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

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All: I do.

Presider: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Presider: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by His grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

All: Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful:

The prayer of the faithful are read at this time.

All respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

Solemn Blessing:

Presider: May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in His compassion, defend you from every assault of sin.

All: Amen.

Presider: And may He, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of His Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality.

All: Amen.

Presider: Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Easter Season come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

All: Amen.

Presider: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: Amen.

Solemn Dismissal (may be said or sung):

Presider: Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

APPENDIX 2

Readings for the Easter Vigil Liturgy

First Reading: Exodus 14:15-15:1

A reading from the book of Exodus:

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.”

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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 Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. The word of the Lord.”

All: Thanks be to God.

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Second Reading: Romans 6:3-11

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the 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. The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord. (while signing forehead, lips, heart)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the Apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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APPENDIX 3

Prayer of the Faithful

1. For Pope Francis, (Arch) Bishop N., and all the clergy; for all Christians, who gather in celebration and wonder this day, and for all those whose lives bear witness to Christ's rising from the dead. We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For the people throughout the world whose lives are broken by hatred, war, and oppression; and for leaders who will commit themselves to bringing peace to all people. We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
3. For all followers of Jesus who seek the peace of the Risen Christ; for those whose hearts and minds are troubled. We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
4. For all those without a job; for the sick, the homebound, and the hospitalized; and for all who care for the sick and the dying. We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
5. For all of us gathered in prayer and for the special intentions of our class. We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
6. For those who have died and now share in the victory of Christ, and for the consolation of all those who mourn. We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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