

Easter 198
Opening Prayer

Alleluia
Gospel
Alleluia

Responsory to God's Word (spoken by all)

Be praised, O God, for Jesus.

He rose to life.

He restored us to your friendship.

He made us whole again.

Be praised!

Be praised

for love which conquers death
and brings us to communion.

We pledge ourselves to Christ's new body.

Be praised!

Be praised for saving us.

Now, we can be ourselves:

unfettered, both here
and beyond the grave.

Be praised!

Joyce M. Donahue

Gracious God:

We are gathered to prepare
the celebration
for the mother of nights,
the most holy night of our faith -
the Easter Vigil.

Assist us
to show forth
its mystery, beauty and profundity.

May all who take part
experience you
as the God

who re-awakens us, repeatedly...
who refreshes us, again and again...
who mends our brokenness... heals our paralyis's...
and lifts our tombstones
so we may move into life, once more.

Dear God of the living
and of perpetual creation,
we thank you
and shall sing to you:
Alleluia!

Sat. Feb. 14, 1999
Planning Mtg. for
Easter Vigil 1999
at Donahues

SMJ

Blessing of the Water

This day the heavens were opened,
and the waters were made sweet;
the earth rejoices...
The mountains and hills are glad,
because Christ is baptized of John in the Jordon.

May the blessings of Jordon be upon this water,
May the blessings of Cana be upon this water,
May the blessings of Bethsaida be upon this water.

And may we who partake of this water
be cleansed and purified,
blessed and sanctified,
healed and made whole,
so that we may be filled with God
Who is the font of all blessings.

Amen! Amen! Amen!

Adapted from
The Great Blessing of Water,
Byzantine Rite