

This evening, we've continued with the rich symbols of Holy Week ... beginning with the blessing of the Easter Candle and the new fire, and the procession of the candle through the church as we all lit our own individual candles in turn from the one candle.

The Easter Candle symbolizes the Light of Christ ... in our midst ... but also within each one of us.

Next we heard the Exsultet - in ancient times called the "Praise of the Candle" which traced poetically the journey of Humankind from creation and the fall ... to redemption in Christ.

In a slightly extended form of the Liturgy of the Word, we heard excerpts from Sacred Scripture that presented vignettes of certain episodes from this journey ... often called "Salvation History."

Looking backwards two-thousand-plus years since the time of Christ, and several thousand years since the beginning of Salvation History as recorded in the Bible ... certain lines that were passed on first orally and then in writing ... take on a renewed meaning.

The *akedah* - or the "Binding of Isaac" as it was known to the Jews gives us the line:

*Take your son ... your only [son], whom you love,
and ... offer him up as a holocaust
on a [mountain].*

The meaning of this ancient episode is transformed after hearing the Passion of Jesus read twice during Holy Week.

Even more so, when Abraham tells Isaac:

God himself will provide the [lamb] for the [sacrifice].

Remember that ancient prophecy when we recite together the "Lamb of God."

We hear how God rescued Moses and the Israelites from the powerful Egyptian army under the command of Pharaoh ... and sang together: "*Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.*"

And remember that when we transitioned from Old to New Testament in our Evening Vigil how we sang “*Glory to God in the highest!*”

We also heard from the Prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed “*Come to the water!*” And in a few moments, we will renew the promises of our own Holy Baptism and be blessed with water from the baptismal font.

What is old is new again. Ancient prophecies are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ ... and in His birth, suffering, passion, death ... and resurrection.

Today we commemorate His glorious resurrection ... for He is risen ... the firstborn of the dead.

As we continue this liturgy, let us dig deep and with renewed vigor tap into the graces of our own Baptism ... and may the Eucharist we celebrate today provide us with a superabundance of graces.

Let us rise with Christ to new life today ... for Jesus Christ is our passover ... our salvation ... and our redeemer.