

Mystagogy:

REFLECTING ON THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Service of Light

What did the service of light say about the meaning of Easter?

Why is the paschal candle lighted at the beginning of the service,
rather than after reading the account of the
resurrection in the reading of the Gospel?

What does the service of light say about the nature of Christian discipleship?

Service of the Word

At no other time in the church's life do we hear the sweep of the story of God's
saving acts in so complete a way.

What happens to these passages when we read them one after the other
after proclaiming the resurrection
through the lighting of the paschal (Easter) candle?

A new convert experiencing the Easter vigil for the first time
said: "Those readings carried me to the font."

What do you think was being affirmed?

What does this extended number of Scripture readings
say to us about the place of the Bible in Christian life?

Service of the Baptismal Covenant

How does placing the baptismal covenant at the heart of the Easter Vigil
help us understand the meaning of baptism?

What is the relationship between the baptism of new converts
and the renewal of our own baptismal covenant?

What does the baptismal covenant commission us
or ordain us to do?

What is the ministry of the baptized?

What does the baptismal covenant have to say
about our daily discipleship?

Easter Eucharist

What happens to our understanding of the Eucharist when we place it in the
context of the celebration of the resurrection rather than restricting it to a
remembrance of the last supper?

How does the Eucharist reaffirm and celebrate the basic meaning of the
service of light?

the service of the word?

the celebration of the baptismal covenant?

What are the implications of our celebration of the Easter Eucharist
for our being and our doing?