

## Easter Vigil - Year A (Gospel of Matt)

- Finally! Finally after week after week after week of Lent - Finally we reach Easter  
Tonight we hear about Salvation History – from Gen to Resurrection OUR T  
STORY

7 different readings      from Creation in GEN  
   to the parting of Red Sea in EX  
   to the Prophets IS and EZ  
   to the New Testament and tonight's Gospel

In the Gospel we see Mary Magdala and the other Mary walking to the tomb  
Step by Step – in mourning (MK carrying spices to anoint the body)  
Step by Step – slowly – back to the tomb, no rush, they know he's dead  
They had both been at the cross  
They had both been at the burial  
They had seen it all – and now Step by Step, back to the tomb.  
AND THEN

- The stone is rolled away
- The soldiers are all laying on the ground
- There is an angel sitting on the stone – IMAGINE!
- The angel tells them FEAR NOT – He's been risen!
- Look and see for yourself
- “Go and tell his disciples”
- THEY RUN – no more Step by Step
- Overjoyed they run to the disciples – AND THEN
- They meet Jesus
  - On top of the evidence of the empty tomb
  - They have a personal encounter with Jesus
  - SO DO WE – and we are not alone

Tonight George and Rebekah join us to come and worship Him in a new way  
Meeting every week, for a year, learning about our Church, scripture and traditions  
Tonight the reading from EZ comes alive in them -  
“I will sprinkle you with clean water” - already been done, both are baptized –  
BUT it also says  
“I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you”  
Tonight George and Rebekah will receive Confirmation & George will receive 1<sup>st</sup> Comm  
Tonight George and Rebekah will come into full communion with us, and our Church  
The new spirit promised to them in EZ is promised to US TOO – Alleluia

We are about to consecrate Holy Water

Then we will join George and Rebekah renewing our baptismal promises  
Then we will anoint George and Rebekah with Chrism in the Sacrament of Confirmation  
For we are united in our faith  
He is Risen – He is truly Risen  
For the Spirit of the Lord is upon us – let us rejoice and be glad.