

## ***The Vigil***

***We recall passages from the Old Testament which tell of the saving acts of God which prepare the way for the redeeming work of Christ in his death and resurrection.***

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that, through this Easter celebration, God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

***Sit***

***We hear readings from the Old Testament, each of which is followed by silence and a prayer.***

## ***Welcoming the Light***

***All stand and face the West Door when it is opened to witness the blessing of the new fire and the lighting of the Easter Candle.***

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
on this most holy night,  
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,  
the Church invites her children throughout the world  
to come together in vigil and prayer.  
This is the Passover of the Lord.  
We remember his death and resurrection  
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,  
confident that we shall share his victory over death  
and live with him for ever in God.

***The new fire is blessed***

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
set us aflame with the fire of your love,  
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The President traces the Easter Candle with the sign of the cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega and the year.*

Christ yesterday and today,  
the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega,  
all time belongs to him,  
and all ages;  
to him be glory and power,  
through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

*Incense studs, which symbolize the five wounds of Christ, are inserted into the Easter Candle.*

By his holy and glorious wounds  
may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. **Amen.**

*The president lights the Easter Candle from the new fire.*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*The Easter Candle is borne aloft and leads the procession into the building. The congregation's candles are lit as it passes. These words are used at each station.*

The light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The Easter Candle is placed on a stand and is censed.*

## THE EXSULTET

*The Easter Song of Praise, in which the saving events of the Old and New Testaments are recalled, is sung. During the course of the Exsultet, the following responses are made at the words:*

Let this place resound with joy.  
Echoing the mighty song of all God's people.  
The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

## ***The Easter Acclamation***

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

***A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made and the lights are switched on.***

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **THE COLLECT**

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.  
**Amen.**

*Sit*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**HYMN**

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;  
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.  
**Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL READING**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to .....  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

**HYMN**

*During which the Easter Candle is carried to the font and all gather round for the renewal of baptismal vows.*

***The Renewal of Baptismal Vows***

**THE DECISION**

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.  
Continue to fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ  
against sin, the world and the devil,  
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

## **PRAYER OVER THE WATER**

***Water is poured into the font***

Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water  
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. Over water  
the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.  
Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery  
in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus Christ received the baptism of John  
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,  
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

Lord of life,

**renew your creation.**

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.  
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.  
By it we share in his resurrection.  
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.  
Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize  
into his fellowship all who come to him in faith.  
Lord of life,  
**renew your creation.**

*The Easter Candle is dipped into the water in the font.*

Now sanctify this water, that, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we may be reminded that we have been cleansed  
from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may we walk  
by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life  
of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

#### **THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus  
Christ.

**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received, and this we believe.  
Amen.**

*(1 Corinthians 15: .3-7.)*

*The people are sprinkled with the blessed water.*

God of grace and life,  
in your love you have given us a place among your people:  
keep us faithful to our baptism,  
and prepare us for that glorious day  
when the whole creation shall be made perfect  
in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Eucharist*

### THE PEACE

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace and take the opportunity to dip their fingers into the water in the font and make the sign of the cross as a sign of baptismal renewal. After which the congregation return to their seats.*

### PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise. As we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your resurrection power: Through Christ our risen Lord.

**Amen**

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
and on this night of our redemption  
to celebrate with joyful hearts  
the memory of your wonderful works.  
For by the mystery of his passion  
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,  
has conquered the powers of death and hell  
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise  
and opened to them the gate of life eternal,  
And so, in the joy of this Passover,  
earth and heaven resound with gladness,  
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation  
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

***Kneel or sit***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;

we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of  
Christ your Son our Lord.

***The President or Sub Deacon says***

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***Either version of the Lord's Prayer is said.***

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Or**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we  
forgive those who sin against us.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.**

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

#### THE BREAKING OF BREAD

*The president breaks the consecrated bread:*

Jesus says, "I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats this bread will live for ever:"  
**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;  
give us this bread always.**

*The Agnus Dei is said or sung here or during the distribution*

Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

**Or** Jesus, Lamb of God  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

Jesus, redeemer of the world  
grant us your peace.

#### GIVING OF COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*We welcome to communion all who are full members of their own church. If you would like to come up for a blessing, please bring your Order of Service with you. Hymns and anthems may be sung during the distribution.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of life,  
who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son  
to the death of the cross,  
and by his glorious resurrection  
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:  
grant us so to die daily to sin,  
that we may evermore live with him  
in the joy of his risen life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**HYMN**

***The Dismissal***

**THE BLESSING**

God who has given us the victory through the mighty  
resurrection of Our lord Jesus Christ,  
give you joy and peace in your faith:  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you,  
now and always.

**Amen.**

With the risen life of Christ within you,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**