

# The Easter Vigil: A Service of Light

*The Service begins, without ceremony, with the Vigil of readings from Holy Scripture. The congregation are already seated in a darkened church.*

***Theme: Renewal***

## THE VIGIL

*The priest addresses the congregation:*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
on this most holy night,  
in which our Lord Jesus Christ  
passed over from death to life,  
the Church invites her members,  
dispersed throughout the world,  
to gather in vigil and prayer.  
For this is the Passover of the Lord,  
on which through word and sacrament  
we share in his victory over death.

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.

## First Reading

Genesis 1.1-2.4a

## Collect:

*Each reading is followed by a collect, to which all respond:*

*All* **Amen.**

## Second Reading

Exodus 14.10-31;

## Third Reading

Jeremiah 31.31-34

## Fourth Reading

Ezekiel 36.24-28

## Fifth Reading

Revelation 21. 1-7

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

*Minister* Let us go to greet the fire of the Resurrection

*The new fire may be kindled.*

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Easter Candle may be marked here.*

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 forever.

*All*

**Amen.**

*Nails or incense studs may be inserted into the Easter Candle.*

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

*All*

**Amen.**

*The president lights the Easter Candle, saying*

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

*The minister bearing the Candle enters the building,  
and pauses just inside the entrance. The minister  
bearing the Candle raises it and says*

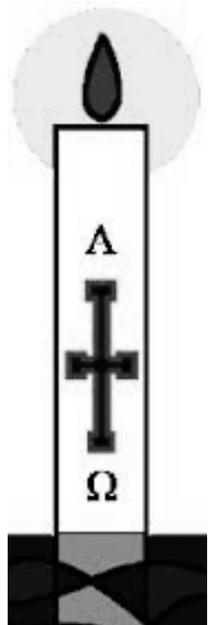
The light of Christ.

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The procession of the Easter Candle moves further  
into the building and then stops. The versicle and  
response are repeated*

*The procession continues to the centre of the  
building and stops once more. The versicle and  
response are again repeated, as the peoples'  
processional candles are lit*



*The Easter Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the building.*

**All** Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **The Exsultet**

*The Exsultet may be said or sung.*

**Minister** Exult and sing! O shining angel choirs!  
Exult and dance, bright stars and blazing suns!  
The first born of creation, Jesus Christ,  
is ris'n in radiant splendour from the dead.

**All** **Rejoice, O awesome night of our rebirth!**  
**Rejoice, O mother moon, that marks the months!**  
**For from your fullness comes, at last, the day**  
**when sin and death are robbed of all their power.**

**Minister** Arise then, sleepers, Christ enlightens you!  
Arise from doubt and sadness, sin and death!  
With joyful hearts and spirits set aflame,  
draw near to sing this Easter Candle's praise!

**All** **We lift our hearts. We lift them to the Lord.**  
**We praise you, God, for all your works of light!**  
**We bless you for that burst of fire and flame**  
**through which you first created all that is.**

**Minister** We bless you for the light invisible:  
the fire of faith, the Spirit's grace and truth,  
that light, the source of life, that stirs the heart,  
and shines for ever on the face of Christ.

**All** **This is the night, most blessed of all nights.**  
**You led your people through the foaming sea,**  
**in love you led them with a cloud by day**  
**and as a flaming shaft of fire by night.**

*Minister*    O night that gave us back what we had lost!  
O night that made our sin a happy fault!  
Beyond our deepest dreams this night, O God  
your hand reached out to raise us up in Christ!

**All**        **Now is Christ risen, we are raised with him,  
our Morning Star who dawns and never sets  
May Jesus Christ our Saviour find us all  
united in one faith, one hope, one Lord.**

*Minister*    Creator, in the joy of Easter night  
accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.  
May all who see this candle's radiant light  
be led to know your nature and your name.

**All**        **To you alone; the living God, and true:  
all glory, praise and pow'r belong to you;  
with Jesus Christ, who conquered death, shall be  
and Spirit blest for all eternity.**

**Amen.**

## **The Easter Acclamation**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All**        **He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*The president begins the Gloria in excelsis, during  
which all the liturgical candles in the church are lit from the  
Easter Candle, the lights are switched on.*

Glory be to God on high,  
**All**    **Glory be to God on high,  
and in earth peace, good will towards men.**

**We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the  
Father, have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art the Most High, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect**

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

*A period of silent prayer is kept.*

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**

# THE THANKSGIVING

## The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples  
and said, 'Peace be with you.'  
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

*cf John 20.19*

*All* We meet in Christ's name  
**let us share his peace.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## The Thanksgiving

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Let us praise and exalt him for ever.

*All* **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be to him who sits upon the throne  
and to the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.**

Great and marvellous are your works,  
Lord God the almighty;  
just and true are your ways,  
King of saints;  
all glorious your gifts, Spirit of life.

**Blessing and honour  
and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving  
and honour and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

○ give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious:

*All* **and his mercy endures for ever.**

He has loved us from all eternity:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

And remembered us when we were in trouble:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

By his cross and passion he has redeemed the world:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

And has washed us from our sins in his own blood:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

On the third day he rose again:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

And has given us the victory:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

He ascended into heaven:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

And opened wide for us the everlasting doors:

*All* **for his mercy endures for ever.**

*All* He is seated at the right hand of the Father:  
**for his mercy endures for ever.**

*All* And ever lives to make intercession for us:  
**for his mercy endures for ever.**

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now:  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*All* For the gift of his Spirit:  
**blessed be Christ**

*All* For the universal Church:  
**blessed be Christ**

*All* For the means of grace:  
**blessed be Christ**

*All* For the hope of glory:  
**blessed be Christ**

*All* For the triumphs of his gospel:  
**blessed be Christ**

*All* For the lives of his saints:  
**blessed be Christ**

*All* In joy and in sorrow:  
**blessed be Christ**

*All* In life and in death:  
**blessed be Christ**

*All* Now and to the end of the ages:  
**blessed be Christ.**

Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise  
more than we can utter,  
more than we can conceive,  
be to you, O most adorable Trinity,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
by all angels, all peoples, all creation,  
for ever and ever.

*All*      **Amen. Alleluia.**

## **The Easter Anthems**

- 1      Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us: \*  
      **so let us celebrate the feast,**
- 2      not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: \*  
      **but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and**  
      **truth.**

*I Corinthians 5.7b, 8*

- 3      Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: \*  
      **death has no more dominion over him.**
- 4      In dying he died to sin once for all: \*  
      **in living he lives to God.**
- 5      See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: \*  
      **and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Romans 6.9-11*

- 6      Christ has been raised from the dead: \*  
      **the first fruits of those who sleep.**
- 7      For as by man came death: \*  
      **by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;**
- 8      for as in Adam all die: \*  
      **even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

*I Corinthians 15.20-22*

**All**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

### **Blessing**

God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

God the Son,  
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,  
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.  
**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,  
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*A minister says*

Go in peace to love and  
serve the Lord. Alleluia!  
Alleluia!

**All**

**Thanks be to God,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

