



# The Easter Liturgy



## **Before the service**

The service is held outside, around the place of the fire, in the darkness and emptiness of Holy Saturday. You will need this Order of Service and a candle.

## **The Easter Liturgy**

This night, the night of the Christian Passover, when Christ 'passed over' from death to the glory of the Resurrection, is the most important moment of the whole Church year. As we celebrate Christ's rising again, we celebrate our own 'passing over' from sin and death to newness of life in the risen Lord.

From earliest times Christians have gathered through the night of Easter to watch and wait, recalling the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the faithful people of God, we keep vigil with the lamps of our faith alight, so that when Christ emerges from the darkness of the tomb, he will find us awake, ready to greet him and to celebrate his victory.

# The Service of Light

*The ministers enter with the unlit 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.

*At the new fire the president says*

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.**

*As the Easter Candle is marked the President says*

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.

**All Amen.**

*As incense studs are inserted into the Easter Candle, the President says*

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

**All Amen.**

*The President lights the Easter Candle, saying*

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

*The minister bearing the Candle raises it three times and the following response is sung*

The light of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*The Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the space and the beginning of Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) is sung by all:*

**The Exsultet**

**Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!  
Around God's throne exult in harmony!  
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!  
Salute your King in glorious symphony!**

**Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!  
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!  
The night is past; the day of life is here!**

**Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!  
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!  
Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore!  
Let all God's people shout the long Amen!**

Tune: Yanworth/ Go forth and tell

*The deacon continues*

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

Lift up your hearts  
**All we lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices  
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,  
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who has saved us by his death,  
paid the price of Adam's sin,  
and reconciled us once again to you.

For this is the Passover feast,  
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain  
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

This is the night when you first saved our ancestors,  
freeing Israel from her slavery  
and leading her safely through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,  
broke the chains of death  
and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the night when all who believe in him  
are freed from sin,  
restored to grace and holiness,  
and share the victory of Christ.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost;  
beyond our deepest dreams  
you made even our sin a happy fault.

Most blessed of all nights!  
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,  
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,  
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth  
and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy  
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.  
this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.

As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame  
fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee,  
grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;  
Christ is risen from the dead  
and his flame of love still burns within us!  
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!  
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

**All Amen.**

# The Vigil

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.

## **Genesis 1:1-2:4**     *The Creation*

1 In the beginning when God created - the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God - swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind

on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every



kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, 'Let us make humankind - in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, - and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind - in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' <sup>29</sup>God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. <sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

*A time of silence is kept, followed by*

Christ is the image of the unseen God;  
**All through him all things were made.**

*The President says the Collect*

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**Exodus 14:10-end, 15:20-21** *Crossing the Red Sea*

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' <sup>13</sup>But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup>The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

<sup>15</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. <sup>16</sup>But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. <sup>18</sup>And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged\* their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

<sup>26</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.'

<sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

20 Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. <sup>21</sup>And Miriam sang to them:

'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'

*A time of silence is kept, followed by*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*The President says the Collect*

Lord God our redeemer;  
who heard the cry of your people  
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:  
free us from the tyranny of sin and death  
and, by the leading of your Spirit,  
bring us to our promised land;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

### **Zephaniah 3.14-end *Jerusalem praises God***

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you\* in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.\*

I will remove disaster from you,\*  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

*A time of silence is kept, followed by*

Where, O death, is your victory?

**All Where, O death, is your victory?**

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to bear witness  
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself;  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

# The Easter Acclamation

*The President proclaims*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made and the Gloria is sung.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Refrain*      **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
Peace you bring to us;  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
We sing our song of praise.      *Refrain***

**Jesus, Saviour of all,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away our sins, O Lord,  
Have mercy on us all.      *Refrain***

**At the Father's right hand,  
Lord, receive our prayer,  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
And you alone are Lord.      *Refrain***

**Glory, Father and Son,  
Glory, Holy Spirit,  
To you we raise our hands up high,  
We glorify your name.      *Refrain***

## **The Collect**

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

*Silence is kept.*

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

**All Alleluia!**

He has defeated the powers of death.

**All Alleluia!**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

**All Alleluia!**

He has the words of eternal life.

**All Alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Mark*.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**



When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Silence is kept*

### **Profession of Faith**

Brothers and sisters,

I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**Hymn - Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!**

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

*Surrexit Christus hodie*

*Anonymous Latin, Lyra Davidica (1708), Compleat Psalmodist (1749 Arnold),*

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All 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.  
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 Dismissal**

### **Blessing**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

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

**All Amen.**

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

**All Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,  
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

**All Amen.**

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

**All: Amen.**

### **Hymn – Thine be the glory**

*sung by the St Martin's Voices*

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;  
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.**

*Refrain*

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors,  
through thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

***Refrain***

*Edmund L Budry (1854-1932), translated by Richard B Hoyle (1875-1939)*

**The Dismissal**

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

**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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