

Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

LITURGY OF LIGHT

Clergy and people gather outside the church, where a fire has been prepared.

The priest greets the people, saying:

The Lord be with you.

*All respond: **And also with you.***

The priest introduces the Liturgy of the Vigil.

Dear friends 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: if we honour the memory of his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we may be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

BLESSING OF THE FIRE

Let us pray.

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Make this new fire ✠ holy, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREPARATION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The priest traces upon the candle a cross^{1,2}, the Greek letters alpha (Α) and omega (Ω)^{3,4}, and the numerals of the current year⁵⁻⁸. Meanwhile he says:

¹ Christ yesterday and today,

² the beginning and the end,

³ Alpha,

⁴ and Omega;

⁵ all time belongs to him,

⁶ and all the ages;

⁷ to him be glory and power,

⁸ through every age and for ever.

R. Amen.

The priest inserts five incense grains in the candle, in the form of a cross, saying

¹ By his holy

² and glorious wounds

³ may Christ our Lord

⁴ guard us

⁵ and keep us.

R. Amen.

The priest lights the candle from the fire, saying

May the light of Christ,

rising in glory,

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

PROCESSION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The priest or deacon takes the Paschal candle, lifts it high, and proclaims:

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

He enters the church, and again proclaims:

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

The candles of the congregation are lit.

He moves to the sanctuary and again proclaims:

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

EASTER PROCLAMATION (EXSULTET)

The Paschal candle is placed on the stand in the sanctuary, and the Exsultet is proclaimed.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

My dearest friends, standing with me in this holy light, join me in asking God for mercy, that he may give his unworthy minister grace to sing his Easter praises.

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 him thanks and praise.

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father.

This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers. This is the night when first you saved our fathers: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness. This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son. O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer! The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, and brings mourners joy. Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and man is reconciled with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Accept this Easter candle: may it always dispel the darkness of this night. May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The priest addresses the congregation.

Dear friends in Christ, we have begun our solemn vigil. Let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling how he saved his people throughout history and, in the fullness of time, sent his own Son to be our Redeemer. Through this Easter celebration, may God bring to perfection the saving work he has begun in us.

All sit for the FIRST READING *Gen 22.1-18*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here am I.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; and he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the ass; I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.' And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here am I, my son.' He said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.' So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. Then Abraham put forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here am I.'

He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 16

R. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

(All repeat)

Preserve me God, I take refuge in you;
I say to the Lord, 'You are my God.
O Lord it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' *R.*

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight;
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. *R.*

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. *R.*

O Lord you will show me the path of life;
the fullness of joy in your presence,
and at your right hand
are pleasures for evermore. *R.*

All stand when the priest stands.

Let us pray.

God and Father of all who believe in you, you promised Abraham that he would become the father of all nations, and through the death and resurrection of Christ you fulfil that promise: everywhere throughout the world you increase your chosen people. May we respond to your call by joyfully accepting your invitation to the new life of grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit for the SECOND READING Exo 14.15-15.1

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go on dry ground through the sea. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.'

Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness; and the night passed without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down upon the host of the Egyptians, and discomfited the host of

the Egyptians, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily; and the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from before Israel; for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.' So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the Lord routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. And Israel saw the great work which the Lord did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord; and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord:

The Canticle follows immediately.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE *from Exo 15*

℟. I will sing to the Lord! Glorious his triumph.

(All repeat)

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!
Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!
The Lord is my strength, my song, my
salvation. ℟.

This is my God and I extol him,
my fathers' God and I give him praise.
The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name. ℟.

The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.
The deeps hide them, they sank like a stone. ℟.

Your right hand O Lord, glorious in its power,
your right hand has shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your glory you crushed
the foe. ℟.

You will lead your people and plant them on
your mountain,
the sanctuary O Lord which your hands have
made.

The Lord will reign for ever and ever. ℟.

All stand when the priest stands.

Let us pray.

Father, even today we see the wonders of the miracles you worked long ago. You once saved a single nation from slavery, and now you offer that salvation to all through baptism. May the peoples of the world become true sons of Abraham and prove worthy of the heritage of Israel. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit for the THIRD READING *Isa 55:5-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for

he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE *from Isa 12*

R/. Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (*All repeat*)

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation. R/.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations. R/.

Proclaim the greatness of his name,
sing a song of praise to the Lord.
For he has done glorious deeds;
let this be known in all the earth. R/.

Shout aloud and sing for joy,
all you that dwell in Zion,
for great in your midst is the Lord,
the Holy One of Israel. R/.

All stand when the priest stands.

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, glorify your name by increasing your chosen people as you promised long ago. In reward for their trust, may we see in the Church the fulfilment of your promise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The priest proclaims the opening of the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO, and Eastertide begins.

Glorify to God in the highest,

All continue:

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.

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

Let us pray.

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.**

All sit for the EPISTLE

Rom 6.3–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Have you forgotten that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus we were baptized into his death? By baptism we were buried with him, and lay dead, in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendour of the Father, so also we might set our feet upon the new path of life.

For if we have become incorporate with him in a death like his, we shall also be one with him in a resurrection like his. We know that the man we once were has been crucified with Christ, for the destruction of the sinful self, so that we may no longer be the slaves of sin, since a dead man is no longer answerable

for his sin. But if we thus died with Christ, we believe that we shall also come to life with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, is never to die again: he is no longer under the dominion of death. For in dying as he died, he died to sin, once for all, and in living as he lives, he lives to God. In the same way you must regard yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, in union with Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand as the priest proclaims the EASTER ALLELUIA.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 118

O give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
and his loving mercy never fails.

Let every son of Israel say
that his love endures for ever.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Victorious is the Lord's right hand,
the Lord's right hand has raised me up.

I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord. **R.**

The stone which the builders refused
has become the chief corner-stone.

This is the Lord's own work,
and it is marvellous in our eyes. **R.**

GOSPEL READING (for Year B)

Mk 16.1-8

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone

for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back – it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment 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.

A SERMON *may follow.*

LITURGY OF BAPTISM

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

All stand and relight their candles. The priest addresses the people:

Dear friends, 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.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you now to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

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?

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.

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The priest introduces 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.

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

All stand for the PRAYER over the OFFERINGS.
Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Accept, Lord, the prayers and offerings of your people, that by your grace the paschal mystery of our redemption may bring to perfection the saving work you have begun in us; through Christ our 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 him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE follows.

All respond with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.
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.

All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:
Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying, you destroyed our death;
Rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:
... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.

**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 priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is sung.

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

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

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

The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.
Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Holy Communion is distributed.

COMMUNION HYMN—**501**

The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.
Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.


Bow your heads and pray for God's 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.**



♩. Go in the peace of Christ, Al-le-lu-ia,
Al-le - lu - ia. **R.** Thanks be to
God, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

RECESSIONAL HYMN—**522**

The service may be followed by REGINA CÆLI.
**Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia:
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia,
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia.
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia.**

♩. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia:
R. For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, brought joy to the whole world: grant, we pray, that through the intercession of his mother the Virgin Mary, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**