

## *Holy Saturday in our Homes*

### **We begin in darkness**

*The service begins in darkness – make the place you are as dark as you can  
The Priest invites us to the celebration of the Liturgy and blesses the New Fire.*

*The Paschal Candle is marked with the sign of the cross, the sign of Christ; then with an Alpha and a Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, a sign of Christ the beginning and the end; and finally with the year, reminding us that Christ is alive in all things- even in the darkness of our times.  
The Priest then places five incense “grains” into the candle, reminding us of the 5 wounds Christ received on the cross.*

*The Paschal Candle is then lit from the fire – as this is done the following words are said :*

Christ our light.

**Thanks be to God.**

*If you have a candle in your home then you may want to light it as a sign of you sharing that light..*

### **We give thanks with Easter words of Praise (The Exsultet)**

Choirs of angels, stars and planets:

**All all God’s people sing and dance.**

All creation, Church of God:

**all God’s people sing and dance.**

We praise you Lord of life and death:  
we glorify your name:

**all God’s people sing and dance.**

This is the night you set us free,  
bringing us home in love;  
holy night, when you led your people  
through the fearsome sea:

**all God’s people sing and dance.**

This is the night you brought your Son  
through the doors of death;  
O holy night, when death takes flight  
and hope is born again:

**all God’s people sing and dance.**

This is the night our tears of sadness  
turn to shouts of joy;  
holy night, when the choirs of earth  
sing the songs of heaven:

**all God’s people sing and dance.**

This is the night when Christ our Light  
makes the darkness bright:

**all God’s people sing and dance.**

Christ is the life that knows no end.  
Christ is the love that burns within.  
Christ is the peace that floods the world.  
Christ is the Lord who reigns on high.  
**All God's people sing and dance.**  
**Amen.**

## **We hear God's word from the Old Testament - read in the light of Christ**

*At the end of each reading*

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

*Followed by the response below and a prayer*

*After recalling the account of Creation in Genesis*

Christ is the image of the unseen God  
**Through him all things were made**

*After recalling the crossing of the Red Sea in Exodus*

The Lord is my strength and my might  
**He has become my salvation**

*After recalling the valley of dry bones*

Christ is the resurrection and the life  
**Those who believe in him will never die**

## **We celebrate the joy of the Resurrection**

*As we hear the Gloria light other candles you have and lighten the room*

## **We pray to God**

*The Priest prays the Easter collect*

**Amen**

## **We listen to God's word**

*We hear a reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

**Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death.

**Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

**Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life.

**Alleluia.**

## **We hear the Easter Gospel**

The Lord be with you  
**All And also with you**  
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end ...*

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

## **A short reflection**

### **We renew our Baptismal Promises**

Do you turn away from sin?

**I do.**

Do you reject evil?

**I do.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I do.**

Do you trust in him as Lord?

**I do.**

Brothers and sisters, let us affirm,  
With all who are baptized,  
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## **We share Christ's love and peace**

Alleluia! The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**All And also with you. Alleluia!**

*Be aware of all who share in this celebration and reflect on how we share Christ's peace in our lives and how we can show and share that peace with others.*

*The gifts of bread and wine are prepared and offered to God – reflect on what you are offering to God today – what lies in your hearts ...*

## **We thank God**

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 and good

*The Priest offers thanks to God ending :*

**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.**

*The Priest continues the prayer, asking that the Spirit may come upon the gifts and recalling the action of Jesus at the Last Supper*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,**

**Rising you restored our life:**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*The Priest continues the prayer, at the end all respond*

**Amen.**

## **We pray as Jesus taught 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 thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **We break the bread**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us

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

**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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to His supper

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

### **We are blessed**

*As those at the Vicarage receive communion those elsewhere pray that you may be aware of Christ's presence with you and that you will be blessed and comforted by it*

### **We say thank you**

*The Priest says a prayer, of thanksgiving.*

**All Amen**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**He has given us new life and hope.**

**He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He has brought us out of darkness.**

**He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### **We are blessed**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you**

*The Priest gives God's blessing*

Live in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

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