

Holy Saturday : Easter Vigil 2021

We begin in darkness

The service begins in darkness – if at home 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.

The people’s candles are lit in church.

If you are at home and have a candle 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)

The response used throughout is

All God’s people sing and dance.

And at the end

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 are lit if you have candles at home light them and lighten the room

The Cantor sings the refrain, repeating after each verse.

The Gloria is spoken over organ accompaniment, with all responding:

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.

The Cantor sings the refrain.

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:

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

The Cantor sings Easter 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 Mark

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 Church 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!