

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 introduces the Vigil.

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.

BLESSING OF THE FIRE

Let us pray.

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. **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 ages; ⁷ to him be glory and power, ⁸ through every age and for ever. **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. **Amen.**

The priest lights the candle from the fire, saying
May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from 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. ℣. **Thanks be to God.**

He enters the church, and again proclaims:

∇. The light of Christ. ℣. **Thanks be to God.**

The candles of the congregation are lit.

He moves to the sanctuary and again proclaims:

∇. The light of Christ. ℣. **Thanks be to God.**

EASTER PROCLAMATION (EXSULTET)

The Paschal candle is placed on its stand, and the priest or deacon proclaims the Exsultet.

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. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The priest addresses the congregation.

Brothers and sisters in 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.

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 on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, 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 from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there 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 for himself 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 the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter 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 boy 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 went and 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, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your

son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, 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.

Almighty God, whose chosen servant Abraham faithfully obeyed your call and rejoiced in your promise that, in him, all the families of the earth should be blessed: give us a faith like his, that, in us, your promises may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit for the SECOND READING

Exo 14.10–15.1a

A reading from the book of Exodus.

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians

were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?’ For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. 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 was going 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 it lit up the night 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 on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, 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 water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not 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 on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so 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 at once.

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.

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. **Amen.**

Sit for the THIRD READING *Isa 55:1–11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: "Come, everyone who
thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has
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 diligently
to me, and eat what is good, and delight
yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and
come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David. Behold, I
made him a witness to the peoples, a leader
and commander for the peoples. Behold, you
shall call a nation that you do not know, and
a nation that did not know you shall run to
you, because of the Lord your God, and of 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 his way, and the unrighteous man
his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that
he may have compassion on him, and to our
God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my
thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are

your ways my ways, declares 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 but water 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 shall 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.

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Glory 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.**

Sit for the EPISTLE

Rom 6.3–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has

been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in 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.

℟. **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.

℟. **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. ℟.

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. ℟.

GOSPEL READING (for Year C) *Lk 24.1-12*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them

in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marvelling at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A HOMILY *may follow.*

LITURGY OF BAPTISM

BLESSING OF THE FONT

The priest says:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us ask God, the almighty Father, to bless our font, that those reborn in it may be made one with his adopted children in Christ.

All stand. Candles are relit as the ministers proceed to the font. The priest then says:

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The prayer of blessing continues, and ends:

... now and for ever. **Amen.**

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

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 invite you to profess the baptismal 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.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The people are sprinkled with baptismal water.

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.**

OFFERTORY HYMN— **262** *Hymns Old & New*

The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says 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.

Let us pray.

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.**