

The Parish Churches of St. James' and St. Paul's



The Great Vigil of Easter

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The Church gathers in silence and darkness in a separate place. Fire is kindled, the celebrant will then greet the people in these words.

Celebrant: 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.
We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries;
we are confident that we share his victory over death
and live with him forever in God.

Let us pray.
Father we share in the light of your glory
through your Son, the light of the world.
Sanctify this new fire 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.

People: **Amen.**

The Paschal candle is lighted from the new fire. A Deacon (or priest, if there is no deacon) takes the Paschal candle, lifts it high and sings:

The light of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The procession then moves into the church, at the door, the Deacon lifts the candle high and sings.

The light of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The procession continues until the Deacon arrives before the Altar, turning to face the people the Deacon sings,

The light of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Other candles in the church are now lit, the Paschal candle is placed into its stand. Then is sung the Exsultet

Deacon: 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!

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Deacon: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Deacon:

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 forebears: 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.

The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and we are 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 creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

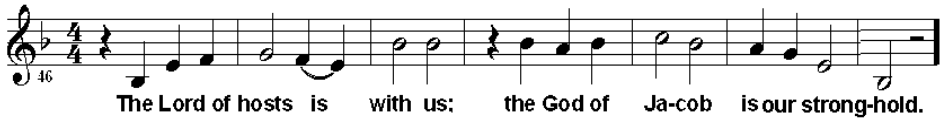
LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, 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.

Lesson I Genesis 7:2-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13

The salvation of Noah and the promise to never again destroy the earth.

Psalm 46



Lesson II Exodus 14:10-15:1

The children of Israel pass through the Red Sea and become a nation.

Refrain



The Cantic of Moses

Lesson III Zephaniah 3:14-20

God calls Israel to sing with joy.

Psalm 98



At this moment, the Easter Collect is announced by the musician. This moment, in which we mark Christ as rising from the dead for us, is a pivotal moment in the liturgy of the church. The music begins with fanfare - the church bell is rung to mark the rolling away of the stone from Christ's tomb. The lights are turned on and the hymn is sung.

Hymn: **Alleluia, Sing to Jesus**

#374

Collect of the Day

The Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Paul teaches about union with Christ's death and resurrection in Baptism.

Gradual Psalm

Psalm 114

1. When Israel came, and Judah's house,
From Egypt's alien speech and ways,
Israel was his dominion then,
Judah became his holy place.
2. The sea beheld these things and fled,
Jordan turned back, its bed was dry;
The lofty mountains skipped like rams,
The little hills like lambs leaped high.
3. What ailed you, sea, that thus you fled?
Mountains, what made you skip like rams?
Jordan, what was it turned you back?
You hills, why did you leap like lambs?
4. Now tremble at his presence, earth:
The God of Jacob, God alone;
Who turned hard rock into a pool,
Brought flowing streams from hard flintstone.

The Holy Gospel

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel,

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon:

The Rev'd Canon Robert Lemon

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

The celebrant says,

The candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsor I present *N* to receive the sacrament of baptism.

The celebrant asks each candidate when presented,

Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After all have been presented, the celebrant addresses the congregation, saying,

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Prayers for the Candidates

The celebrant then says to the congregation,

Let us now pray for *these persons* who *are* to receive
the sacrament of new birth.

A person appointed leads the following litany.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The leader concludes,

Grant, O Lord,

that all who are baptized

into the death of Jesus Christ your Son

may live in the power of his resurrection

and look for him to come again in glory;

who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Celebration of Holy Baptism

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your

Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who are here cleansed from sin and born again, may continue in forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God,
The Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of the bread and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall
into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of
God in Christ?

People: **I will with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your
neighbour as yourself?

People: **I will with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and
respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's
creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of
the Earth?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

The Baptism

*Each candidate is presented by name to the celebrant who then immerses,
or pours water upon, the candidates, saying,*

*N, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

The celebrant makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each one, saying:

*I sign you with the cross,
and mark you as Christ's own for ever.*

The celebrant, at a place in the full sight of the congregation, prays over the newly baptized, saying,

Heavenly Father,
we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit
you have bestowed upon *these* your *servants*
the forgiveness of sin,
and have raised *them* to the new life of grace.
Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit.
Give *them* an inquiring and discerning heart,
the courage to will and to persevere,
a spirit to know and to love you,
and the gift of joy and wonder
in all your works. **Amen.**

The Giving of the Light

One of the ministers may then give to each of the newly baptized a lighted candle, saying,

Receive the light of Christ,
to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

Then all of the newly baptized have received candles, the people say,

**Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.
People: **We receive you into the household of God.
Confess the faith of Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **And also with you.**



Prayer over the Gifts

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer #3

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God...

...to proclaim the glory of your name.

People: **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.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God...

...Therefore, Father, according to his command,

People: **we remember his death,**

we proclaim his resurrection,

we await his coming in glory.

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice...

...now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread:

Celebrant: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

People: **Now we are raised to new life.**

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

People: **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Celebrant: Live in us, that we may live in you.

The Communion

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

We invite all Christians who are baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity, regardless of denomination, to join with us in receiving the Church's highest offering of praise to God, the Holy Eucharist.

Communion Hymns: **#222, #360**

Prayer after Communion

Doxology

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: **The Day of Resurrection**

#205

Dismissal:

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord. Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

