

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

From earliest times Christians have gathered through the night of Easter Eve to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The liturgy incorporates four key elements:

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Service of Light proclaims Christ's resurrection in word and action. The Easter Candle, symbolising Christ, the light of the world, is lit and carried through the Church and progressively passed to the whole congregation. The Exsultet, an ancient Easter Song of Praise, is sung as the climax of this liturgy.

THE VIGIL

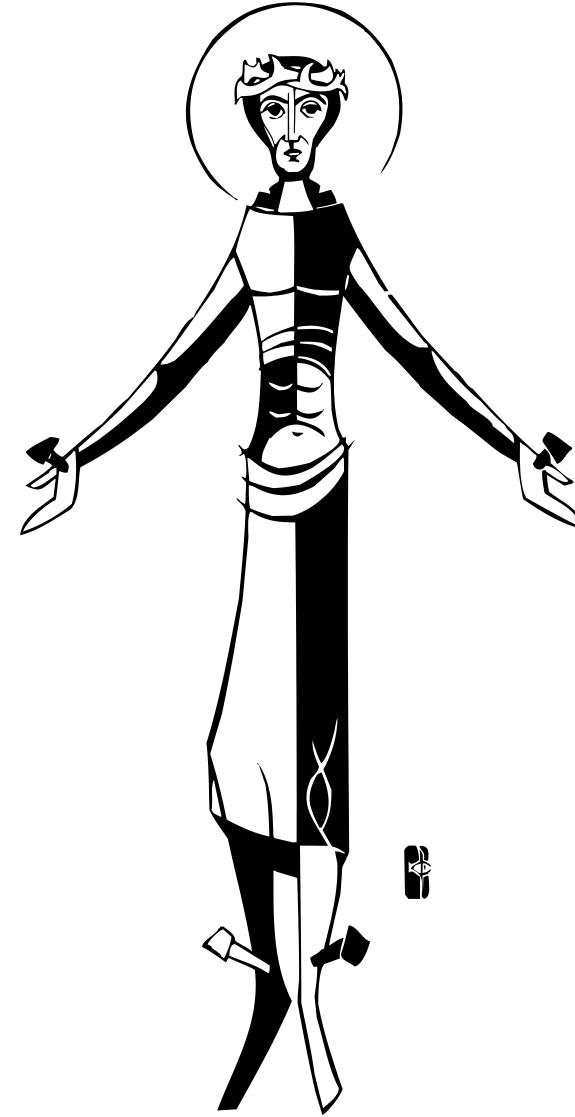
This is probably the oldest feature of the Easter celebrations. From its earliest times the Church would keep watch through the night and meditate on the mighty works of God. They would pray until the earliest hours of the morning when Christ's resurrection was acclaimed. The heart of the Vigil is the reading of key passages from Scripture telling of God's saving love.

THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

Baptism and Easter have been closely linked from at least the end of the second century. Lent became the period of preparation for entering into the Church's fellowship through baptism at Easter. Candidates entered into the life of Christ's death and resurrection in the midst of the Church's celebration of them. It is also traditional for there to be a Re-affirmation of Baptismal Vows by the Christian community as a public declaration of their union with Christ in his death and resurrection.

THE EUCHARIST

The celebration of the Eucharist is the proper climax to the Easter Liturgy when we are sacramentally reunited with our risen Lord. Traditionally the Eucharist was celebrated in the early hours of Easter morning, shortly after midnight.



EASTER VIGIL

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God

The people light their candles from the Paschal Candle at this time.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand. Then the Deacon sings or says the Exsultet:

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame,
pray with me to God the Almighty
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light;
through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God the Creator,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead
open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life.

Amen.

God the Christ,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower and fill you with Christ's peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn - #178 "Alleluia, Alleluia"

The Dismissal

With the risen life of Christ within us
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Je-sus, Lamb of God: have mer-cy on us. Je-sus, bear-er of our sins: have
 mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - dem - er, re - deem - er, of the
 world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome at God's table.

If you would prefer a blessing place your hands behind your back.

Please indicate if you would prefer a gluten free wafer and/ or grape juice

Communion Hymn - #174 "At the Lamb's High Feast"

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

**Eternal God,
 you have graciously accepted us
 as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you with gladness
 and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Deacon continues

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere,
 with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you,
 the invisible, almighty, and eternal God,
 and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb,
 who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin,
 and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our forebears, the children of Israel,
 out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin,
 and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell,
 and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God,
 is your mercy and loving-kindness to us,
 that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.
 How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away.

It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn.
 It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined
 and all are reconciled to God.

Holy God, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor.
 May it shine continually to drive away all darkness.
 May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning-
 he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Liturgy of the Word

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The story of Creation Genesis 1:1-2:2

Psalm 36:5-10 Response



In your light, O God, we see light.

Let us pray.

Silence

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea Exodus 14:10-15:1

Canticle 8, *The Song of Moses* Response:



I will sing to the Lord, who has risen up in might.

Let us pray.

Silence

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Send your Holy Spirit, that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

**Blessing, honor and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for-ever.**

Amen.

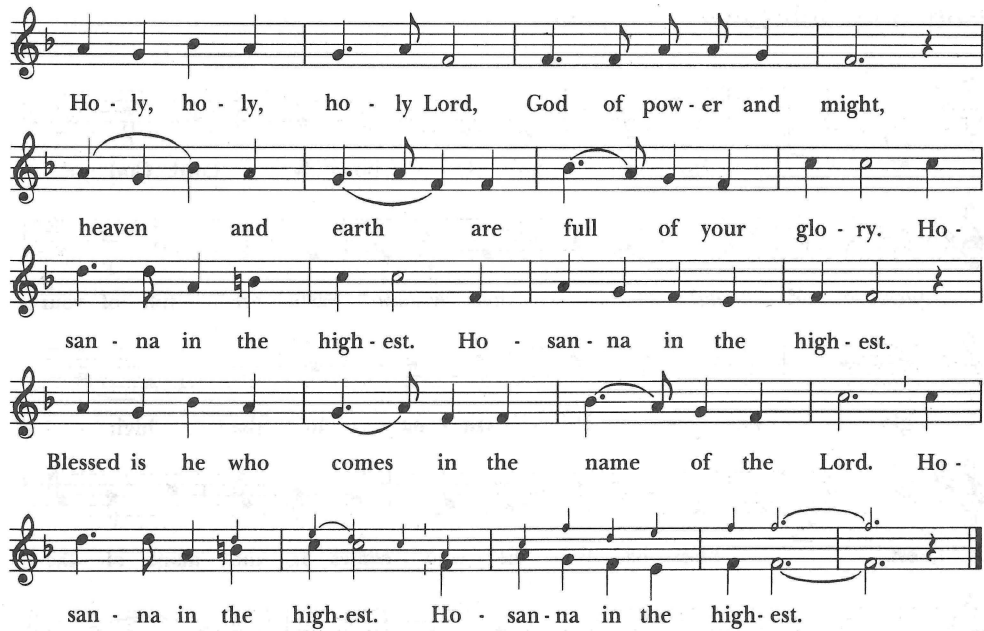
And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we sing

Our Fa-ther who art in hea-ven, Hal-owed be thy Name, Thy king-dom
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this day our
dai-ly bread. For-give us our tres-pas-es, As we-for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us,
as we for-give. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-li-ver us from
e-vil. This is the king-dom and the pow-er and the
glo-ry for ev-er. A-men

The bread is broken

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

You are holy indeed O God, the fountain of all holiness.

On that night before he died, your Son took bread and gave you thanks.

He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks.

He gave it to them and said: Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sins; do this to remember me.

Let us then proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
 Christ has risen,
 Christ will come in glory.**

Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness,
 we were far off until you brought us near.

Salvation offered freely to all Isaiah 55:1-11

Canticle 9, *The First Song of Isaiah* Response:



You shall draw wa - ter with re - joic - ing from the springs of sal - va - tion.

Let us pray.

Silence

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A new heart and a new spirit Ezekiel 36:24-28

Psalm 42:1-7 Response:



Put your trust in God, O my soul.

Let us pray.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The gathering of God's people Zephaniah 3:12-20

Psalm 98 Response:



The LORD will judge the world with right - eous - ness.

Let us pray.

Silence

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle Romans 6:3-11

Gradual Hymn - #296 “We Know that Christ is Raised and Dies No More.”

The Gospel Matthew 28: 1-10

The Homily

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Prayer Over The Water

The Presider stands by the water for baptism, and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth
whose promise endures for ever.

We thank you God for your love in all creation, especially for your gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you for your covenant with your people Israel, through the Red Sea waters you led them to freedom in the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptised by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Through the deep waters of death Jesus fulfilled his baptism. He died to set us free and was raised to be exalted Lord of all. It is Christ who baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

Your Son conquered death by his death and won the victory by his resurrection. Be with those who are dying, and lead them to eternal life with you. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, grant that all who now celebrate these joyful holy days here on earth may finally praise you forever, with all the angels and saints in heaven. We ask this through your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Peace

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia!

Offertory Hymn - #199 “Come Ye Faithful”

The altar is set and gifts are presented

The Eucharistic Prayer

God 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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal God, and on this night of our redemption to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing forever the hymn of your glory:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned, and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour, Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The celebration continues with the Prayers of the People (adapted from The Lutheran Church of Australia).

Let us pray that the results of Christ's resurrection may be seen throughout the world.

Holy and Loving God, we thank and praise you for the glorious resurrection of our
Saviour, Jesus Christ. Your Son, our Passover Lamb, has taken away the sin of the world.
Forgive us and all people.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son said, 'Peace be with you'. Bring your peace to the world
and to our own country.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son appeared to Mary Magdalene when she was weeping.
Comfort those who are sad, lonely, or grieving.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son met the women and asked them to tell the disciples about his resurrection.
Guide Christians everywhere to witness to the resurrection in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son proclaimed himself to the two disciples from the Scriptures and made himself
known to them in the breaking of the bread. Reveal him to us and all people through the
teaching of your word and the celebration of your holy Eucharist.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son strengthened the faith of Thomas by telling him to touch his hands and side.
Reassure those who are troubled by doubts, and strengthen their faith in your goodness.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We thank you that through the waters of baptism you cleanse us,
renew us by your Spirit and raise us to new life.

In the new covenant we are made members of your Church
and share in your eternal kingdom.

Through your Holy Spirit fulfill once more your promises in this water of rebirth,
set apart in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!**

The Presider invites all to reaffirm their baptismal covenant:

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

Do you believe in God 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.**

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,
bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ,
keep us in eternal life by his grace; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The candles at the Altar are lighted from the Paschal Candle.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

A Glorious Noise is made by all followed by the singing of the Gloria

The Gloria

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)