



The Great Vigil
of Easter

Alleluia! Christ is
Risen!!

The Service of Light

The building being in darkness, the ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the lit Easter Candle.

The celebrant stops three times with the Paschal Candle and sings

Light of Christ

The people respond

Thanks be to God

And light their candles

The Celebrant goes to the lectern and chants the hymn to the candle

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
splendor,
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 Savior 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.

R. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. 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 the pillar of
fire
destroyed the darkness of sin!

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.
What good would life have been to us,
had Christ not come as our Redeemer?

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!
Most blessed of all nights, chosen by
God
to see Christ rising from the dead!

Of this night scripture says:
"The night will be as clear as day:
it will become my light, my joy."

The power of this holy night
dispels all evil, washes guilt away,
restores lost innocence, brings mourners
joy;
it casts out hatred, brings us peace,
and humbles earthly pride.
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,

a flame divided but undimmed,
a pillar of fire that glows to the
honor of God.

Let it mingle with the lights of
heaven
and continue bravely burning
to 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.

R. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The priest may introduce the Vigil using these or other appropriate words
As we await the risen 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.

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish 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 keep still."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I

have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

The Priest then prays the Collect

Let us pray that God will feed and sustain his people through the hard journeys of this life.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

With the dawning of their deliverance your people ate the feast of freedom. As Christ our Passover Lamb gives hope to the hopeless and frees the ensnared, establish the justice for which your heart yearns, O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

The Easter Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made.

Gloria in Excelsis (sung)

The Gloria in excelsis is used, during which all the candles in the church are lit from the

Easter Candle, the lights are switched on and the people's candles extinguished.

All: 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.

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.

The Collect

Priest: Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory. Silence is kept.

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 honor, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

New Testament Reading - Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But 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. 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.

The Celtic Alleluia (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Reading - Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for

us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Reading of the Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

The Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant

The congregation gathers at or faces the baptismal font.

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.

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your repudiation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: ***I do.***

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 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 neighbor 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.***

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

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

Prayer over the Water

The priest stands before the water of baptism and says

Celebrant: Praise God who made heaven and earth,

People: ***who keeps his promise for ever.***

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

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

Celebrant: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

People: ***Saving God, give us life.***

Celebrant: We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.

People: ***Saving God, give us life.***

Celebrant: We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

People: ***Saving God, give us life.***

Celebrant: Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

People: ***Saving God, give us life.***

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit upon us, Who have been brought to new birth in the household of faith and raise us with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

People: ***Saving God, give us life.***

The waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people. Alternatively, each member of the congregation may be invited to renew their commitment to Christ by going to the water and making the sign of the cross with it on their forehead.

The priest says

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **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.**

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be with you all
People: **And also with you**

The Bread and wine are prepared for the Communion

The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Father all-powerful and ever-living God we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.....We praise you with greater joy than ever on this Easter night when Christ became our paschal sacrifice. He is the true lamb who has taken away the sins of the world. By dying he destroyed our death, by rising he restored our life And so, with all the choirs of heaven we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and

offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer and the Breaking of Bread " If D All: ***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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Communion Hymn #618

Ye Watchers and ye Holy ones

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn #207
Today!

*"Jesus Christ is Risen
Easter Hymn*

**1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**2 Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**4 Sing we to our God above Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Easter Dismissal