

The Service of Light on Easter morning



We gather in the churchyard around a fire

Chants

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near;
wait for the Lord, keep watch,
take heart!**

**Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away,
never dies away.**

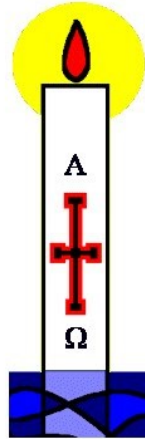
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed
from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout
the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.
This is the Passover of the Lord.
We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and
celebrating his mysteries,
confident that we shall share his victory
over death
and live with him for ever in God.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy day
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.**

The Easter candle

The Easter Candle is blessed

Christ yesterday
and today,
the beginning
and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
to him be glory
and power,
through every
age and for ever.
Amen.



The Candle is marked with studs

By his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. **Amen.**

The Candle is lit

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*The Candle is carried into the dark church.
We pause just inside the entrance.*

The minister bearing the Candle raises it and sings:

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*The procession of the Easter Candle moves up the
nave towards the dais. Our candles are lit as it goes.
The verse and response is repeated.
The Candle is placed on a stand.*

The Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!
Rejoice, O earth, in glory,
revealing the splendour of your creation,
radiant in the brightness
of your triumphant King!
Christ has conquered!
Now his life and glory fill you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!
Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour,
our Lord of life, shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

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 right and good that with hearts
and minds and voices
we should praise you, Father almighty,
the unseen God,
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has saved us by his death,
paid the price of Adam's sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.

Glory to you for ever.

For this is the Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the
faithful.

Glory to you for ever.

This is the day when
you first saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery
and leading her safely through the sea.

Glory to you for ever.

This is the day when
Jesus Christ vanquished hell,
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.

Glory to you for ever.

This is the day when
all who believe in him are freed from sin,
restored to grace and holiness,
and share the victory of Christ.

Glory to you for ever.

This is the day
that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams
you made even our sin a happy fault.

Glory to you for ever.

Most blessed of all days!
Evil and hatred are put to flight
and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained,
and mourning turned to joy.

Glory to you for ever.

Day truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home,
and heaven is joined to earth
and all creation reconciled to you.

Glory to you for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise,
your Church's solemn offering.
Grant that this Easter Candle
may make our darkness light.
For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;
Christ is risen from the dead
and his flame of love still burns within us!
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!
Amen.

The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*We make a joyful noise with bells, cymbals and
other instruments*

Gloria in Excelsis

*We sing the Gloria, during which all the candles in
the church are lit from the Easter Candle,
the lights are switched on and we extinguish our
candles.*

Glory to God , glory to God,
glory to the Father
**Glory to God , glory to God,
glory to the Father**
To God be glory for ever
To God be glory forever
Alleluia! Amen.
Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen.
Alleluia! Amen.

Glory to God , glory to God,
Son of the Father
**Glory to God , glory to God,
Son of the Father**
To God

Glory to God , glory to God,
glory to the Spirit
**Glory to God , glory to God,
glory to the Spirit**
To God

The Collect

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen
Christ in glory.

Silence is kept.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
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.

Amen.

Hymn

This is the night of new beginnings.
This is the night when heaven meets earth.
This is the night filled with God's glory,
promise of our new birth!
Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

This is the night Christ our redeemer
rose from the grave triumphant and free,
leaving the tomb of evil and darkness,
empty for all to see.

Now will the fire kindled in darkness
burn to dispel the shadows of night.
Star of the morning, Jesus our Saviour,
you are the world's true light!

Sing of the hope deeper than dying.
Sing of the pow'r stronger than death.
Sing of the love endless as heaven,
dawning throughout the earth.

Into this world morning is breaking.
All of God's people, lift up your voice.
Cry out with joy, tell out the story,
all of the earth rejoice.



The Easter Gospel

We turn to face the Gospel reader

I am the first and the last,
says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.
Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to N.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia
Give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name

Jesus is Lord of all the earth
He is the King of creation.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth
Jesus has died and has risen.

We have been crucified with Christ
Now we shall live forever.

God has proclaimed the just reward
Life for all men, alleluia!

Come let us praise the living God
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Reflection and prayer

Sending prayer

Risen Lord Jesus,
As Mary Magdalene met you in the garden
On the morning of your resurrection,
So may we meet you today and every day;
Speak to us as you spoke to her,
Reveal yourself as the living Lord,
Renew our hope and kindle our joy,
And send us to share
the good news with others.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Blessing

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life,
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you and remain with you always.

Amen

Hymn

**Led like a lamb to the slaughter
In silence and shame,
There on Your back You carried a world
Of violence and pain.
Bleeding, dying, bleeding, dying.**

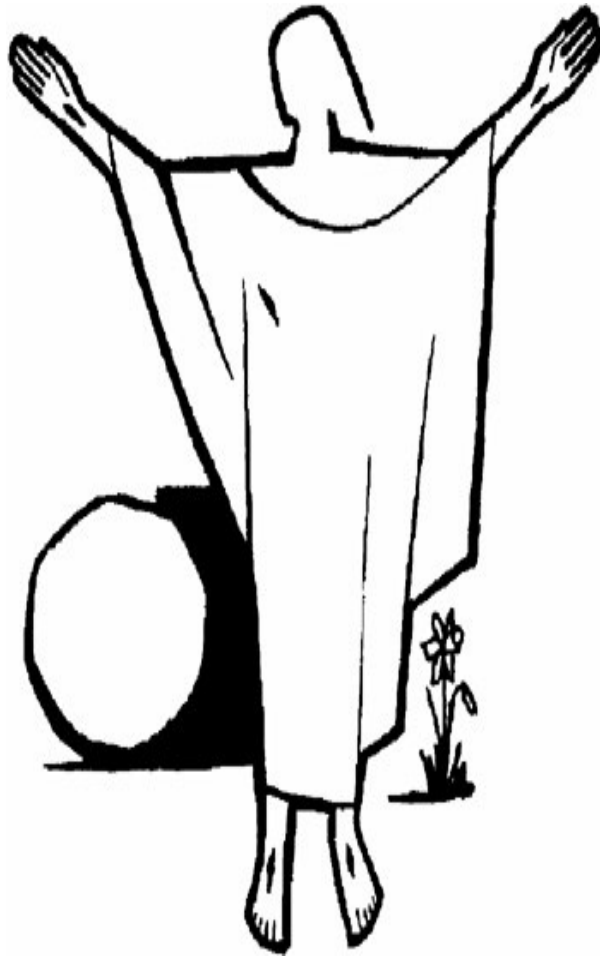
*You're alive, You're alive,
You have risen, Alleluia!
And the power and the glory is given,
Alleluia, Jesus, to You.*

**At break of dawn, poor Mary,
Still weeping she came,
When through her grief she heard
Your voice
Now speaking her name.
Mary, Master, Mary, Master!**

**At the right hand of the Father
Now seated on high
You have begun Your eternal reign
Of justice and joy.
Glory, glory, glory, glory.**



A very happy Easter



Please stay for breakfast

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