



*St. Thomas of Canterbury,  
the Parish Church for  
Brentwood*

***Easter Vigil***



***The Resurrection of Our  
Lord Jesus Christ***



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 forever in God.

*The priest blesses the flames with this prayer.*

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. **Amen**

*The priest cuts a cross in the wax with a stylus before he traces the Greek letters 'alpha' above the cross and 'omega' below with the numerals of the current year. As he does so he says:*

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 priest inserts five grains of incense, representing the five wounds of Christ, while he says:*

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

*The priest lights the Easter Candle, saying*

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

*The minister bearing the Candle walks first, lifting the Candle up high. The procession follows the minister with the Easter Candle until the first station, when the minister sings:*

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

*The procession moves on into the church, and two further stations are made while the minister sings the above versicle and the congregation sings the response. At the second station, the acolyte and handheld candles are lit. After the third station, the Easter Candle is placed in its place of honour.*

*The people take their places in the nave and remain STANDING*

*The Easter Candle is censed, and in praise of the Easter Candle, the 'Exultet' is sung*

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 up 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 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 honour 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. Amen

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*We keep vigil as we hear what God has done for us. Let us listen to the scriptures that prepare the way for the coming of Christ as we await his coming in glory.*

*The priest says:*

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.

*SIT*

*Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a*

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening, and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God

saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky. So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be

fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 136.1–9, 23–26*

Nick Rayner



For his mer - cy en - dures for ev - er.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

**for his mercy endures for ever.**

Give thanks to the God of gods,

**for his mercy endures for ever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

**for his mercy endures for ever.**

Who only does great wonders,  
**for his mercy endures for ever;**  
Who by his wisdom made the heavens,  
**for his mercy endures for ever;**  
Who spread out the earth upon the waters,  
**for his mercy endures for ever;**  
Who created great lights,  
**for his mercy endures for ever;**  
The sun to rule the day,  
**for his mercy endures for ever;**  
The moon and the stars to govern the night,  
**for his mercy endures for ever.**  
It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
**for his mercy endures for ever;**  
And delivered us from our enemies,  
**for his mercy endures for ever;**  
Who gives food to all creatures,  
**for his mercy endures for ever;**  
Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
**for his mercy endures for ever.**

### *STAND*

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen**

### *SIT*

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And Abraham said, ‘Here I am.’ God 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 that I shall show you.’ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.’ Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘Father!’ And Abraham said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ Isaac said, ‘The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?’ Abraham said, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.’ So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ The angel said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place ‘The LORD will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.’ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you

have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 16*

Murray



**R Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.**

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord, my good above all other.’ All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people. **R**

But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied. Their libations of blood I will not offer, nor take the names of their gods upon my lips. **R**

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot. My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage. **R**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand I shall not fall. **R**

My heart, therefore, is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the Pit. You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. **R**

## STAND

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 promise may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

## SIT

*Exodus 14:15-15:1*

*A reading from the Book of Exodus*

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 Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying:

*Exodus 15.1b–13, 17–18*

Alex Evans

Sing to the Lord, for he hath triumphed glor - i - ous - ly.

### **R Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously.**

‘I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. **R**

Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power – your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. **R**

In the greatness of your majesty, you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble. At the blast of your nostrils,

the waters piled up, the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. **R**

The enemy said, “I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.” You blew with your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. **R**

Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendour, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them. **R**

In your steadfast love, you led the people whom you redeemed; you guided them by your strength to your holy abode. You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O LORD, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established. The LORD will reign for ever and ever.’ **R**

### **STAND**

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**

*Ezekiel 36.24–28*

*A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.*

The word of the LORD came to me: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit

within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalms 42 and 43*

Nick Rayner

Why are you so full of heav-i-ness, O my soul? and

5  
why are you so dis - qui - e - teth with - in me?

**R Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me?**

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me, 'Where now is your God?' **R**

I pour out my soul when I think on these things: how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God, with the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy-day. **R**

Give judgement for me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked. For you are the God of my strength; why have you put me from you? and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me? **R**

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling; That I may go to the altar of God, to

the God of my joy and gladness; and on the harp I will give thanks to you,  
O God my God. **R**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted  
within me? Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is  
the help of my countenance, and my God. **R**

### **STAND**

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit, you give to  
your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen  
us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith  
and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is  
alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

**Amen**



*This is the moment of the mighty Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This moment is marked with the ringing of bells and other joyful noise.*

*Priest alone: Gloria in excelsis Deo*

**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 sins 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**

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**

*Romans 6.3–11*

**SIT**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised 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.**

## Gospel Reading

*STAND Please stand for the acclamation and the Gospel*

David Rooke



**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 28:1-10*

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him, the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message

for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

*SIT for a short homily*

## THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM

### STAND

*The Priest says:*

Dear friends in Christ, let us ask God, the almighty Father, to bless this font, that those reborn in it may be made one with his adopted children in Christ.

*As the procession moves to the font, we turn to face the font as we ask for the intercession of the Church in heaven in the litany of the Saints.*



Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison**

Christe eleison. **Christe eleison**

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison**



God the Father, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**  
God, the Holy Trinity, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Mary, Mother of God, **pray for us.**

St Joseph, **pray for us.**

St Anne & St Joachim, **pray for us.**

St Elisabeth, **pray for us.**

St John the Baptist, **pray for us.**

St Michael the Archangel, **pray for us.**

All Our Guardian Angels, **pray for us.**



St Peter, **pray for us.**

St Paul, **pray for us.**

St John, **pray for us.**

St Andrew, **pray for us.**

St Mark, **pray for us.**

St Thomas of Canterbury, **pray for us**

St George, **pray for us.**

St Catherine, **pray for us.**

St Cedd, **pray for us.**

St John Mary Vianny, **pray for us.**

St Vincent de Paul, **pray for us.**

St Agnes, **pray for us.**

St Cecilia, **pray for us.**

St Bernadette, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Angels, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Martyrs, **pray for us.**

All you Holy Saints, **pray for us.**

*The priest blessed the water in the font.*

Father, you give us grace through your sacramental signs, which tell us of the wonders of your unseen power. In baptism, we use your gift of water, which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament. At the very dawn of creation, your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness. The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness. Through the waters of the Red Sea, you led Israel out of slavery, to be an image of God's holy people, set free from sin by baptism. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptised by John and anointed with the Spirit. Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross. After his resurrection he told his disciples: 'Go out and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' Father, look now with love upon your Church, and unseal for her the fountain of baptism. By the power of the Spirit give to the water of this font the grace ✠ of your Son. You created man in your own likeness: cleanse him from sin in a new birth of innocence by water and the Spirit.

*The priest lowers the Easter Candle into the font three times while saying:*

We ask you, Father, with your Son, to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font.

*The priest holds the Easter Candle in the water as he says:*

May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The priest then addresses the congregation and says:*

Through the Easter mystery, we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to new life. Now that we have completed our Lenten observances, let us renew the promises made in our baptism when we rejected Satan and his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church. And so 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.**

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

*The people are then sprinkled with the newly blessed water.*

## **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

Alleluia The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you, alleluia!**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*As the choir sings Vidi aquam, the sacred ministers move back to the front of the church, and we turn to face the altar.*

## The Offertory

*A collection is not taken at this celebration. If you don't have cash or are not part of our planned giving scheme and would like to support the ministry costs of St Thomas' please scan the QR code on the back of the chair in front of you, to be taken to the online donations page where you can easily donate to support the work of St Thomas' and complete the details allowing the reclamation of Gift Aid on your donation. We sing this hymn while the altar is prepared.*

## The Offertory Hymn

NEH 103



### **1 Alleluya! Alleluya!**

**Hearts to heaven and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the Cross a victim  
For the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,  
Now is risen from the dead.**

**2 Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits  
Of the holy harvest field,  
Which will all its full abundance  
At his second coming yield;  
Then the golden ears of harvest  
Will their heads before him wave,**

Ripened by his glorious sunshine  
From the furrows of the grave.

3 Christ is risen, we are risen;  
Shed upon us heavenly grace,  
Rain, and dew, and gleams of glory  
From the brightness of thy face;  
That we, Lord, with our hearts in heaven  
Here on earth may fruitful be,  
And by angel-hands be gathered,  
And be ever safe with thee.

4 Alleluya! Alleluya!  
Glory be to God on high;  
To the Father, and the Saviour,  
Who has gained the victory;  
Glory to the Holy Spirit,  
Fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluya! Alleluya!  
To the Triune Majesty.

*Christopher Wordsworth 1807-85*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this 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.**

Holy God, you feed us with earthly and with spiritual food: you have chosen us, sinful as we are to hear your word and to proclaim your truth. Make us worthy witnesses of your Risen Son; we ask this in his name who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Preface

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.**

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 becomes our paschal sacrifice.

He is the true Lamb who took away the sins of the world.

By dying, He destroyed our death;

By rising, He restored our life.

Therefore, with all the angels of heaven

We lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.**

*We KNEEL after the Sanctus and Benedictus.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power  
of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and  
wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this ✠ in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

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. Do this, as often as you drink it, ✠ in remembrance of me.

*After the consecration, the following acclamation is said/sung:*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph her spouse, St Thomas of Canterbury and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen**

## **COMMUNION RITE**

As our Saviour taught and commanded us we are bold to pray:

**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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*All say/sing the Agnus Dei:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*The Celebrant invites the people to communion*

Behold the Lamb of God ✠ who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word,  
and I shall be healed.**

*Please follow the direction of the celebrant and sidespersons to come forward and receive communion. Those who are confirmed are welcome to make their communion at our celebration today. Otherwise, please come forward for a*

*blessing with your hands crossed across your chest. The response after receiving a blessing is **Amen***

## **Anthem**

The Choir sing – ‘Now the green blade riseth’ – Arr. Lindley

**KNEEL/SIT**

## **The Communion Hymn**

NEH 117



**1 The Day of Resurrection!**  
**Earth, tell it out abroad;**  
**The Passover of gladness,**  
**The Passover of God!**  
**From death to life eternal,**  
**From earth unto the sky,**  
**Our Christ hath brought us over**  
**With hymns of victory.**

**2 Our hearts be pure from evil,**  
**That we may see aright**  
**The Lord in rays eternal**  
**Of resurrection-light;**  
**And, listening to his accents,**  
**May hear so calm and plain**

**His own 'All hail,' and, hearing,  
May raise the victor strain.**

**3 Now let the heavens be joyful,  
And earth her song begin,  
The round world keep high triumph,  
And all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen  
Their notes in gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord hath risen,  
Our joy that hath no end.**

*St John of Damascus c750  
Trans J.M. Neale 1816-66*

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

*St Alphonsus Liguori*

### **Post Communion**

#### **STAND**

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.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we offer you our**

**souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## **The Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.

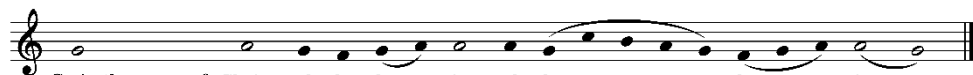
**Amen.**

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.\_\_\_\_  
Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - - lu - ia.\_\_\_\_

Go in the peace of Christ, alleluia, alleluia

**Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia**

## The Regina Coeli

*The sacred ministers gather before the image of Our Lady to greet her in the words of the Regina Coeli*



**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 him thy prayer, alleluia.**

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
**For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.**

O God, by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have brought joy to the whole world: grant that, by the help of his mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life; through Christ the Lord. **Amen**

*The sacred ministers leave as we sing this final hymn.*

## Recessional Hymn

NEH 107



**1 Good Christian men, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King:  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluya!**

**2 The Lord of Life is risen for ay:  
Bring flowers of song to strew his way;  
Let all mankind rejoice and say:  
Alleluya!**

**3 Praise we in songs of victory  
That Love, that Life, which cannot die,  
And sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluya!**

**4 Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluya!**

Organ Voluntary: Toccata on 'Gelobt Sei Gott' – Martin  
(Played by Sam Adams)

*Please join us in the hall for a parish party*

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