

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The Easter Vigil

The Service of Light

*The service begins in darkness,
and the unlit Easter Candle is brought to the doors of the church*

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 night
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 is marked as prayers are said.
The president 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 enters the building.
The minister pauses three times to say,*

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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 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 Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

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. For this is the Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful. This is the night when you first saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery and leading her safely through the sea. This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ. This is the night that gave us back what we had lost; beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault. Most blessed of all nights! Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Night 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. Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering, and 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 Vigil

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.

Please sit for the following readings from Scripture:

Lamentations 3:1-9; Psalm 22

The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria is said.

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

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.**

New Testament Reading

Please sit.

1 Peter 4: 1-8

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

Gospel Reading

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.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit for the sermon.

The Creed

Following a moment's silence after the sermon, we stand to affirm our faith

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Peace

Please stand. The Peace is introduced with these or other words:

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.

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

We share with one another a sign of peace

The Preparation of the Table

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your
resurrection power; through Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic ('Thanksgiving') Prayer

Please remain standing.

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, 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 hell 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 for ever the hymn of your glory:

Sanctus and Benedictus

This hymn, recalling the worship of the angels (Isaiah 6.3), is said.

**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.**

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.

Great is 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, and all the saints and martyrs of the Resurrection, 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

After a moment's silence, we say the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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.**

Agnus Dei

The Agnus Dei is said.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have
mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world, grant us peace.**

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*All baptised Christians are welcome to receive the Eucharistic gifts of bread
and wine that we share here. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of
the Eucharistic bread and wine, then please bring this booklet with you to the
altar rail as a sign. Each communicant receives with the words:*

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

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.**

We pray together:

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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 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 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 peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

