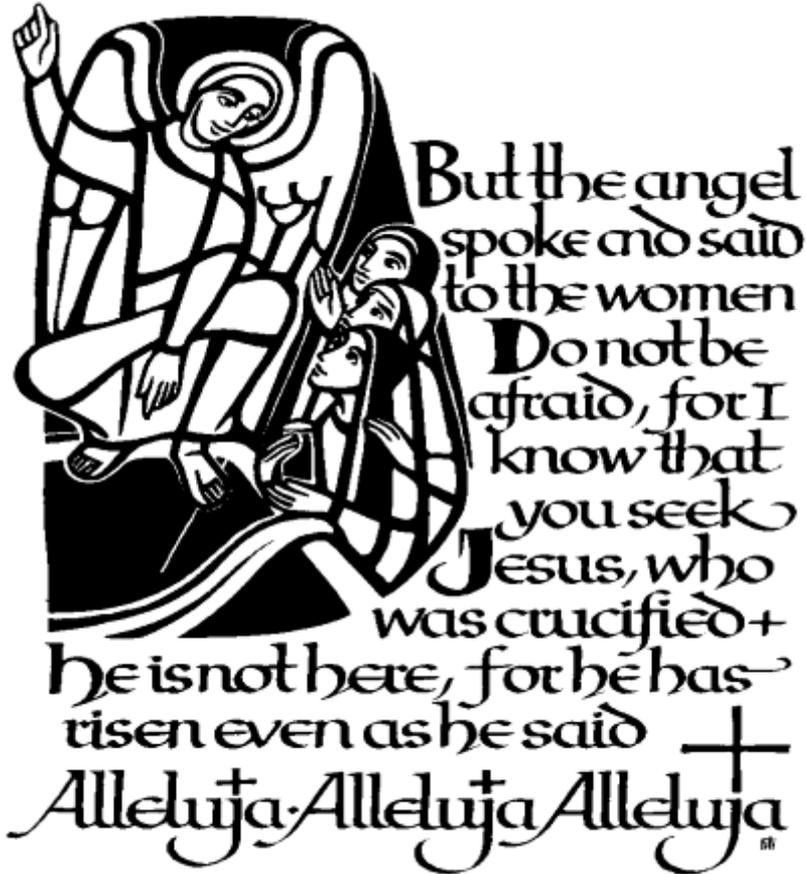


The Easter Vigil



The Parish of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville

(Please do not take this booklet away with you)

Introduction:

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

The earliest Gospel tradition tells us that on the first day of the week, when the women came to the tomb to anoint the body of Christ, they found the tomb to be already empty. (This first day of the week began after the ninth hour of the Jewish Sabbath i.e. Saturday evening).

The Easter Vigil marks the end of the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and leads into the celebration of Christ's resurrection. The singing of the Exultet, which we will hear sung by a cantor as we enter the church, the ancient hymn of triumph and rejoicing, links this night of our Christian redemption to the Passover night of Israel's redemption out of Egypt.

Our liturgy is formed of four parts:

1. The Liturgy of Light

Christ the light of the world is symbolically represented by the Easter fire, the Paschal candle, and the individual candles that we hold. We enter the darkened church with the light of our flickering candles.

2. The Liturgy of the Word

We listen to the story of our redemption told in the Old and New Testaments.

3. The Liturgy of Baptism

In Baptism we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. We renew our Baptism vows once more.

4. The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Finally, renewed in this covenant of grace we make our sacrifice of thanksgiving in the Eucharist and praise God for all he had done for us in Christ.

1. The Liturgy of Light

Priest:

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 fire

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.

All Amen.

The Priest now marks the Paschal Candle with a cross, the letters alpha and omega, and with the numerals of the year saying:

1. Christ yesterday and today,
2. The beginning and the end,
3. Alpha and Omega,
4. All time belongs to him,

5. And all ages;
6. To him be glory and power,
7. Through every age and forever.

All Amen.

He then inserts five grains of incense in the form of a cross saying:

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

All Amen.

The priest lights the Easter Candle, saying

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

He then raises the candle and says:

The Light of Christ

All: Thanks be to God

Candles are lit from the Paschal Candle and the priest and people process into church. The Paschal Candle is processed to the front of the Church where it is placed in a prominent place.

Meanwhile a cantor sings the Exultet (The Easter Proclamation)

Once everyone is in their places:

Priest: The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

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

**Gloria in Excelsis is sung (during which the church lights are lit
and candles extinguished)**

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

Opening Prayer

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.

All Amen.

2. The Liturgy of the Word

Priest: Now as we listen to the word of God in the Scriptures we start with the story of creation from the Book of Genesis, and we hear of God creating light. In the hymn that follows the first creation in Genesis is linked to the new creation, through the death and resurrection of Christ.

1. A Reading from the Book of Genesis (1.1- 2.4)

At the end: This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: Christ be Our Light (Easter Vigil lyrics)

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.

Refrain: 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.

Refrain

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!

Refrain

Sing of the hope deeper than dying.
Sing of the power, stronger than death.
Sing of the love endless as heaven,
dawning throughout the earth!

Refrain

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!

Refrain

Bernadette Farrell

Priest: In this extract from the prophet Isaiah, the effect of God's word on us is compared to the effect that water has on the earth.

2. A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (55.1-11)

At the end: This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: BBC 212

Priest: In this passage we hear how the Israelites escape from the oppression of slavery in Egypt.

3. A Reading from the Book of Exodus (14:10-end and 15:20-21)

At the end: This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: BBC 166 x 2

Priest: Now as we move to the writings of the New Testament, Saint Paul reminds us of the new life brought to us by our baptism.

4. A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-11)

At the end: This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: BBC 287

Priest: Saint John now tells us how to live in the light of God.

5. A reading from the 1st letter of John (5:1-10)

At the end: This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

We sing an alleluia verse to greet the Gospel

Deacon/priest: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Deacon/priest: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to [Matthew in Year A; Mark in Year B; Luke in Year C]:

All: Glory to you O Lord

At the end of the Gospel

Deacon/priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you O Christ

3. The Liturgy of Baptism: The Priest moves to the font.

If there is to be a baptism everyone makes the baptismal promises along with the candidate/s, or their parents and godparents if an infant is to be baptised

Priest: As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

All I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

All I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

All I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

All I come to Christ.

[If there is a baptism then the candidate/s are signed with Holy Oil, blessed by the bishop with these words:

N, I sign you with the sign of the cross. Christ claims you for his own. Do not be ashamed of Christ, you are his for ever.

All: Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen]**

The blessing of the water

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All who keeps his promise for ever.

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

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

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

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.

[If there is to be a baptism the priest pours water over the head of the
candidate with the words: *N*, I baptise you in the name of the Father
and of the Son and over the Holy Spirit. **Amen**]

The congregation are sprinkled with Holy Water.

4. The Liturgy of the Eucharist

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.

All: Alleluia.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn: BBC 112

The altar is prepared

Priest: Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation, thanks to your goodness this bread we offer. Fruit of the earth, work of our hands, it will become the bread of life.

People: Blessed be God! Blessed be God! Blessed be God forever, Amen. Blessed be God! Blessed be God! Blessed be God forever, Amen.

Priest: Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation, thanks to your goodness this wine we offer, Fruit of the vine, work of our hands, it will become the cup of life.

People: Blessed be God! Blessed be God! Blessed be God forever, Amen. Blessed be God! Blessed be God! Blessed be God forever, Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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

All: 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.

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,
who, in your tender mercy,
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;
who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction
for the sins of the whole world;
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,

in remembrance of his death and passion,
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus

**All: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,
and through faith in his blood,
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins
and all other benefits of his passion.
Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,
to offer you any sacrifice,

yet we pray that you will accept this
the duty and service that we owe.
Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,
and fill us all who share in this holy communion
with your grace and heavenly blessing;

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

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Priest: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ:

All: Though we are many we are one body, because we all share in
the one bread.

The Agnus Dei

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.

Priest: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

The congregation come forward to receive communion.

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.

All Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All 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.

All Amen.

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

All 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.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn: BBC 114

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