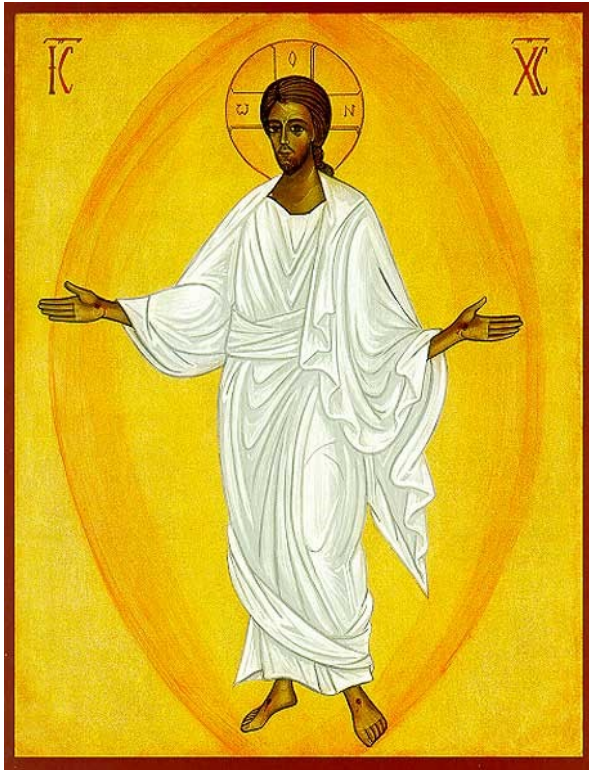


# The Easter Vigil

during COVID-19 -

## Dusk Holy Saturday

11<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 8pm



*Before the service Roger Grange sings Victimae Paschali Laudes (Plainchant)*

*A blazing fire is prepared outside the church. The Priest approaches with the server carrying the Paschal Candle. The Thurible is on a stand.*

## **Part 1: THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**

**The Gathering** *The priest says*

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *All Amen.*

**The Greeting** *The priest greets the people*

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.

*The new fire is blessed.*

Let us pray.

O God, who through your Son  
bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory,  
sanctify ✠ this new fire, we pray,  
and grant that, by these paschal celebrations,  
we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires,  
that with minds made pure  
we may attain festivities of unending splendour.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*All Amen.*

## **The Marking of the Paschal Candle**

Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End,  
the Alpha and the Omega,  
All time belongs to him and all the ages;  
To him be glory and power through every age and for ever.

*All Amen.*



Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!  
Around God's throne exult in harmony!  
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!  
Salute your King in glorious symphony!

Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!  
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!  
The night is past, the day of life is here!

Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!  
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!  
Your Saviour lives; he's with you evermore!  
Let all God's people sound the long Amen!

*The second part is sung by a minister standing near the Candle.*

*Alexander:* The Lord be with you

*All* and also with you.

*Alexander:* Lift up your hearts.

*All* We lift them to the Lord.

*Alexander:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* It is right to give thanks and praise.

*Alexander:* It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices  
we should praise you, 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 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy

accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering,

this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.

As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame

fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee,

grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;

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!

*All Amen.*

## **Part 2: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **The Vigil**

Lights are taken from the Easter Candle to illuminate the Bible from which the Vigil readings will be read.

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.

### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55.1-11**

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life.

I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

**Gloria in Excelsis** *During the singing of the first verse of the Gloria bells are rung*

Glory be to God in heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring;  
Thankful hearts and songs of raising  
To creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you:  
Lord we bless you:  
Glory be to God our king.

*The ringing of the bells stops.*

Lamb of God who on your shoulders  
Bore the load off this world's sin:  
Only son of God the Father  
You have brought peace within.  
Lord have mercy,  
Christ have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin.

You O Son of God are holy,  
You we praise with one accord:  
None in heaven or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord:  
With the Father  
And the Spirit  
Ever worshipped and adored.

**The Collect** *The priest intones the prayer this night.*

Let us pray *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 honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.

*All* Amen.

**A reading from the letter to the Romans 6.3-11**

<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Reading** *his acclamation heralds the Gospel reading*

*All* 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.

*All* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you. *All* And also with you.

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

*All* Glory to you, O Lord. *Matthew 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> 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.' <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. <sup>10</sup> 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. *All Praise to you, O Christ.*

## Sermon

**PART 3: BAPTISMAL LITURGY** *the priest blesses the water in the aspergillum.*

Let us pray

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

*All Amen.*

*The priest asperges (sprinkles) those gathered, please make the sign of the cross as a reminder of your baptism.*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### 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. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you, Alleluia, alleluia.

*All and also with you. Alleluia.*



## Offertory Hymn

Thine be the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment  
Rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave-clothes  
Where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won!*

Lo, Jesus meets us,  
Risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly He greets us,  
Scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness  
Hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord now liveth,  
Death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee,  
Glorious Prince of life;  
Life is naught without Thee:  
Aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conquerors,  
Through Thy deathless love;  
Lead us in Thy triumph  
To Thy home above.

Edmond Louis Budry. Tr. R. Birch Hoyle.

## The Offertory Prayer at the Preparation of the Table *is given.*

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. *All Amen*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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.**

It is truly right to give you thanks, and praise,  
because you raised Jesus gloriously from the dead.

For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,  
and has taken away the sin of the world.

By his death he has destroyed death,

and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore heaven and earth rejoice with angels and archangels, saying:

*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.**

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:

*All* **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 Mary, virgin Mother of God,  
St Thomas the Apostle and our patron, 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.

*All* 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,  
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.

**Breaking of the Bread** *The priest breaks the consecrated bread, and says:*

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 one bread.

## **The Agnus Dei is said.**

*All* 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.

*All* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*The Priest and others receive holy communion.*

*During Holy Communion and the ablutions:*

*St Thomas' Choir Faure's 'In paradisum'*

## **Prayer after Communion for the day is said.**

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**

The Lord be with you

*All* and also with you.

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. *All* Amen.

The Mass is ended, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

*All* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

*'Modus Iudendi pleno Organo pedaliter'—Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)  
played by a St Thomas' Organist.*