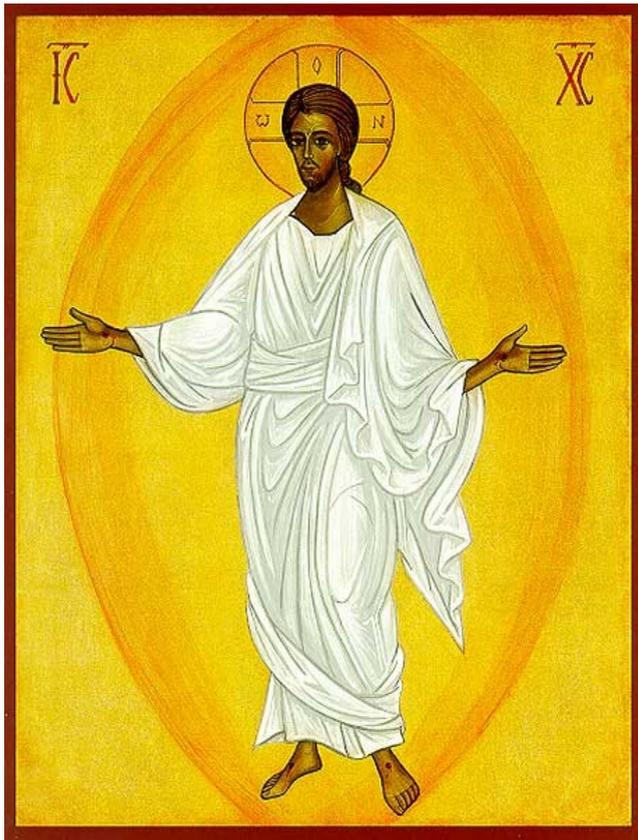


The Easter Vigil

Dusk Holy Saturday

3rd April 2021 at 8pm



Please read the back cover of this Order of Service.

*Before the service a fire is prepared and lit as all gather in the **Vicarage Garden**.*

The Priest and altar party approach the fire with the sub-deacon carrying the Paschal Candle.

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.**

The Priest inserts five studs with incense into the candle in the form of a cross, to represent the five nail wounds of Christ, saying:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. By his holy | 1 |
| 2. and glorious wounds, | |
| 3. may Christ our Lord | 4 2 5 |
| 4. guard | 3 |
| 5. and keep us. | |

All Amen.

The Priest lights the paschal candle from the new fire, saying:

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

When the candle has been lit, a burning coal/s from the fire are placed in the thurible, and the Priest puts incense into it in the usual way. The thurifer with the smoking thurible precedes the paschal candle. After them follows the people holding in their hands unlit candles.

At the three points the cross was proclaimed at the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday, the following is sung as the candle is raised. This symbolises light conquering the darkness of death.

The Light of Christ

All Thanks be to God

Finally the Easter Candle is placed on a stand near the Altar, and the cantor sings:

The Exultet (the Easter Song of Praise) is sung by **Roger Grange**

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 subdeacon says: Lift up your hearts.

All say: We lift them to the Lord.

The subdeacon says: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All say: It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Cantor continues:

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 say: **Amen.**

Part 2: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Vigil Roger Grange sings Victimae Pascali Laudes (Plainchant)

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

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.

A reading from Genesis 1:1, 26-31a -Keith Spillett

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying:

"Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth."

God also said:

"See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food."

And so it happened.

God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.

The Cantor sings as the next reader approaches the lectern:



Send forth your Spi-rit, O Lord, and re - new the face of the earth.

A reading from Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18— Roger Grange

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.

Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!"

"Here I am," he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son."

As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said:

"I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing all this because you obeyed my command."

The Cantor sings as the next reader approaches the lectern:

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

A reading from the book of Exodus 14:15–15:1—Nicholas Robinson

The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers."

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and

that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land.

When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea.

In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive.

With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

Then the LORD told Moses, (Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers."

So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea.

Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The Cantor sings as the next reader approaches the lectern:



The Lord has set free his peo - ple.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55. 1-9–David Gilbert

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.

The Cantor sings as the next reader approaches the lectern:



The Lord is com - pas - sion and love.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 47.1-9 & 12–Annabel Crowe

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. ²Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side. ³Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. ⁴Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water;

and it was up to the waist. ⁵ Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. ⁶ He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?" Then he led me back along the bank of the river. ⁷ As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. ⁸ He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. ⁹ Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. ¹² On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

The Cantor sings:

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

The Gloria in Excelsis *During the Gloria bells are rung, the sanctuary candles are lit, then the lights for the sanctuary, then the chancel, then nave are switched on. If applicable, crosses, statues etc unveiled. The priest says:*

Glory to God in the highest,

All say 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.

The ringing of the bells stops.

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 *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—**Fade Solanke-Mitterer**

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

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

Gospel Reading *his acclamation heralds the Gospel reading*
Stand as an Organ Fanfare heralds the Gospel

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

During The Offertory an Organ piece is played

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 say: 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 say: **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 say: **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.**

✠ Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

The Agnus Dei is then played on the organ as the altar party receive Holy Communion and the priest moves with the ciborium to the chancel step.

Communion Antiphon: Entrance Antiphon is sung.

I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord.

Whoever believes in me, even though they die shall live for ever.

After that is intoned, the people then come forward walking up the centre aisle to received Holy Communion in one kind only, standing at the Chancel Step. No accompanying words will be given, but mediate on Christ's body. Then return via the North Aisle to their places. Please keep a 2 meter gap!

During Holy Communion the Organ Voluntaries are played followed by the recorded Anthem: 'In paradisum' by G. Faure sung by our choir.

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!

'The postlude is played by a St Thomas' Organist.

Welcome to St Thomas' Church, Boston Road!

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic we forced to do things a little differently to protect all of us, especially the most potentially vulnerable. Therefore,

- Please observe 2 metre social distancing.
- Be guided by the sidesmen.
- Follow any instructions given by the priest.
- Masks must be worn.
- NO communal singing inc. hymns.

Music will still feature and it aims to deepen our devotion and celebration, as we gather in this sacred space and rejoice in Christ's presence in word and sacrament.