



The building being in darkness, the ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Easter Candle. All stand and face the ministers. The president says

> Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy day, 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 kindled.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, to you be glory and praise for ever. Your steadfast love extends to the heavens and your faithfulness never ceases. Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom and strengthen our lives with your word, for you are the fountain of life; in your light we see true light. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.** 

A minister brings the Easter Candle to the president, who traces the cross and then the Greek letter Alpha (A) above and the Greek letter Omega  $(\Omega)$  below it. The numbers of the current year are marked in the space between the arms of the cross. As the vertical of the cross is traced the president says Christ, yesterday and today, As the horizontal is traced the president says the beginning and the end, As the Alpha is traced Alpha As the Omega is traced and Omega, As the first number of the year is traced the president says all time belongs to him, As the second number is traced

and all ages;

As the third number is traced

to him be glory and power,

 $\ As \ the \ fourth \ number \ is \ traced$ 

through every age and for ever.

# All Amen.

*Five nails or incense studs may then be inserted into the Candle, reminding us of the five wounds of Christ.* 

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

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, followed by the other ministers, pausing just inside the entrance.* 

The minister bearing the Candle raises it and says or sings

The light of Christ.

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

The procession of the Easter Candle moves further into the building and then stops. The versicle and response are repeated (if sung, at a higher pitch), and the candles of those around are lit from the Easter Candle.

*The procession continues to the centre of the building and stops once more. The versicle and response are again repeated (if sung, at a yet higher pitch), and the candles of those around are lit.* 

The Easter Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the building and censed. The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) may be sung or said by a minister standing near the Candle, or the following hymn may be sung:

> 1. 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 Lord in glorious symphony!

2. 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 light is here! 3. Sing Church of God! Exalt with joy outpoured! The gospel trumpets tell of victory won! Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore! Let all God's people shout the loud Amen!

Tune: Woodlands TiS 161

The president introduces the Vigil using these or other appropriate words

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.

The Ministry of the Word

All sit for the reading/s from the scripture.

Lesson 1	Genesis 1.1-2.4a	Creation
Hymn Response	:	

When God made the world in goodness, dark and chaos everywhere, came the light of love's creation showed forth beauty, love and care.

Verses sung to Laos Deo TiS 525

How marvellous are your works, O God!

Throughout the order and beauty of creation,

each day sings of your glory,

each night utters your praise.

Teach us now,

how much greater in wonder

is the new creation,

by which in the fullness of time

you gave us eternal life in Christ, your Son,

who is one with you and the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever. Amen.

Lesson 2	Genesis 7:1-5; 11-18; 8:6-18; 9.8-13	Salvation
	Noah trusted God's commandment,	
	built the ark to save our race.	
	After flood came rainbow's glory	
	showing us God's loving face.	

God of steadfast love, in the waters of the deluge you swept away the world's corruption, and in the saving flood of Baptism you give us a new beginning in holiness. Keep us faithful to your covenant; purify all that is corrupt in us; make us live according to your justice and pursue the things that make for peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

Lesson 3 Exodus 14.10-31, 15.20-21 Deliverance

Through the Red Sea came God's people, out of slavery to be free, singing songs of exaltation to proclaim God's victory.

God of wonders,

whose right hand parted the waters of the sea and saved your people from their oppressor; unlock for us the meaning of this marvel, and grant that every nation may come to share the faith and joy of Israel, by coming to new birth in water and the Holy Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Lesson 4	Ezekiel 36.24-28	Cleansing		
	Prophets, too, tell of God's goodness bringing triumph out of strife. Sprinkled with Gods cleansing water with new hearts we're brought to life.			
God of the Covenant,				
renew your people by the gift of the Holy Spirit,				
and gather us together in Christ				
in whose heart and spirit we receive				

in whose heart and spirit we receive

the gift of your new and immortal life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence may be kept.

#### The Easter Acclamation

The president says

# Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made.* 

Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria in excelsis is used, during which all the candles in the church are lit from the Easter Candle, the lights are switched on and the people's 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.

The Collect

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Silence is kept.

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**. First Reading: Acts 10.34-43

# After the lesson, the reader says May your word live in us **and bear much fruit to your glory.**

In response to the first reading Psalm 118:14-24 is said.

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous: 'The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!' I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord has punished me sorely but he has not given me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord the righteous shall enter through it. I will give thanks to you for you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Epistle: Corinthians 15.1-11

After the lesson, the reader says May your word live in us **and bear much fruit to your glory.**  The people stand for the following hymn.

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 up to the sky, our Christ has 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 greeting may hear, so calm and strong, his own 'All hail' and, hearing, may raise the victors' song.

3. Now let the heavens be joyful and earth her song repeat, the whole world shout in triumph her living Lord to greet; let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend, for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

The people sing the 'Alleluias' for the gospel procession.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

#### 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 appointed minister proclaims the gospel, first saying The Lord be with you.

And also with you. The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The appointed Gospel from Mark 16 v1-8 is now proclaimed.

After the Gospel, the minister says For the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** 

Breaking open the Word

A short time of silence follows the sermon.

The Prayers of the People

The Presider says

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

Response:

Risen God, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers

Almighty God, who in the Passover of Christ have begun new creation; grant to your whole Church the gifts of joy and peace this Easter, and by our celebration at the beginning of this new day, prepare us for the feast of the age that is to come. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The people stand and sing the baptismal hymn and turn toward/gather around the font.

1. Baptised in water, sealed by the spirit cleansed in the blood of Christ our king heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

2. Baptised in water, sealed by the spirit dead in the tomb with Christ our king one with his rising, freed and forgiven thankfully now God's praise we sing.

3. Baptised in water, sealed by the spirit marked with the sign of Christ our king born of one Father, we are his children joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Tune BUNESSAN TiS 156

Water is poured into the font.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Presider says the prayer over the water.

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

#### Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

#### Thanks be to God.

We give thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

#### Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

#### Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your kingdom.

#### Thanks be to God.

And now we give you thanks that we are made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing, that this water may be a sign of our new birth in Baptism. May we continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Dear friends,

through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in his baptism, so that we may rise with him to new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us reaffirm the promises we made in baptism.

Do you turn to Christ? I turn to Christ. Do you repent of your sins? I repent of my sins. Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust? I reject them all. Do you renounce Satan and all evil? I renounce all that is evil. I ask you now to reaffirm as yours the faith of the Church. Do you believe in God the Father? I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. Do you believe in God the Son? I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints. the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

This is the faith of the Church. We believe in one God: ✤ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. Will you each by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

# I will with God's help.

God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and by the Spirit, and bestowed on us the forgiveness of sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord. May God keep us faithful to our calling now and for ever. **Amen.** 

The priest impels the water from the font towards the people.

The Greeting of Peace

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Christ is risen. Alleluia! ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη! He is risen indeed. Alleluia! The peace of the risen Lord be always with you. And also with you.

The people exchange a simple greeting of peace with those next to them.

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia! our triumphant holy day, alleluia! who so lately on the cross alleluia! suffered to redeem our loss, alleluia!

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly king, alleluia! who endured the cross and grave alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. alleluia!

3. But the pain that he endured alleluia! our salvation has procured; alleluia! now exalted he is king, alleluia! and the angels ever sing: alleluia!

Tune BUNESSAN TiS 156

The gifts of the people are presented and the Presider says With this bread that we bring: we shall remember Jesus. With this wine that we bring: we shall remember Jesus. Bread for his body, wine for his blood; gifts from God to his table we bring. With joy, O God, we prepare the table of the Lord's Passover. Joyful you have made us; joyful you have made us; ioyful now be pleased to keep us unto the eternal life of your kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The people 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 our thanks and praise. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter 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:

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.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners. and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross. On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

"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."

#### A minister says

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Dying you destroyed our death, Rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus come in glory, Lord Jesus come in glory.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ,

and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body.

For we all share in the one bread.

The Communion, is prepared as the people 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.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Come, this is the table, not of the Church but of the Lord. All are welcome to his table. Alleluia! Draw near with faith! Come.

# Anthems Jubilate, Jubilate Jubilate Deo

## The Sending out of God's People

#### The minister says

Let us pray:

The Presider says the following post-communion prayer

God of the Covenant, you have nourished us with the sacraments of Easter. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and unite us in your peace and love.

# Most loving God,

you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

The people sing the hymn.

1. Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory over death you've won; angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes, where your body lay. Refrain

#### Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son, Endless is the victory over death you've won.

2. See, 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 the Lord is living, death has lost its sting. *Yours be the glory, ...* 

During the last verse of the hymn, the ministers proceed to the font. The people turn towards the font for the prayer for the departed followed by the seasonal blessing.

3. No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without you: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.
Yours be the glory, ...

TiS 380

The Presider says a prayer for the departed followed by the seasonal blessing.

God of all that lives and dies, you sent Jesus to share our earthly life. Christ facing death on the cross gives us courage; Christ rising from the dead brings us hope. Because Jesus lives, nothing can separate us from your love, which unites us now with those who have gone before us. The dawn breaks and gives us light for the new day. Help us to share his victory, and rejoice with all your saints in the promise of a glorious resurrection; through your Son our Redeemer. **Amen.** 

May the souls of the faithful through the mercy and love of God rest in peace and rise in glory. **Alleluia!** 

The blessing of the Living God, who brings light out of darkness, be upon you now and for ever. **Amen.**  The blessing of the risen Christ, who sends you as apostles into all the world be upon you now and for ever. **Amen.** 

The blessing of the Holy Spirit, who fills the church with joy and praise, be upon you now and for ever. **Amen.** 

The blessing of our God, ♥ the holy and glorious Trinity, be upon you and remain with you now, and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### A minister says or sings:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### Postlude:

*Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn* (Today God's Son has triumphed), J S Bach BWV 630

# All are cordially invited to a hearty breakfast in the Narthex.

# PARISH ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP MEETING:

Our Parish Animal Welfare Group will be meeting on Sunday April 7, over lunch at Riddells Creek Pub, 12.30 to plan our activities for this year. Table booked for usual attendees but please let Janine Mc Dougall (withgrace@bigpond.com) know if you wish to join us and we may be able to squeeze you in.



#### Easter Day - Sunday 31 March 2024

Acts 10.34-43 or Isaiah 25.6-9; Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24 or Hymn to the Risen Christ (APBA, p. 6)
1 Corinthians 15.1-11 or Acts 10.34-43; John 20.1-18 or Mark 16.1-8

We are reminded today that death has lost its sting. We are inheritors of eternal life because Jesus has been raised from the dead. Alleluia! Alleluia! As people of the resurrection, we carry this message of hope into every arena of grief and loss. The cords of limited life and the shadow of death do not ensnare us forever. Jesus gives us the hope of heaven. He invites us to a life of joy and thankfulness. Alleluia! Alleluia!

- Pray for churches everywhere as they proclaim the Mystery of Easter.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Community of the Resurrection in the UK and southern Africa.

*Text:* The Rt Rev Peter Stuart, Bishop of Newcastle © Anglican Board of Mission, 2024

> The ABM Easter gift is supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Anglicans as they witness the good news of Jesus Christ.

# PRAYER

**EASTER GIFT 2024** 

Lord Jesus Christ, your love for us stretches from heaven to earth, from beyond the grave to us here in this life, from celestial eternity to our time-bound existence.

> Help us, your servants, to share that love – as you have commanded us to do – in practical ways.

During Easter, may we share that love by encouraging our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers though our giving towards the mission grants which support them to take their rightful place in the Church.

Send your Spirit to urge us to pray for partners, and to stand with them in effective and down-to-earth ways, for it is in truly loving them that we show our genuine love for you.

Hear this prayer for your love's sake.

Amen.



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