

A SERVICE FOR EASTER EVE (HOLY SATURDAY)

Before the service begins you might like to have ready matches and a candle to light as a symbol of the Easter Candle in your home.

THE INTRODUCTION

After the introduction the priest lights the Easter Candle, saying

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

You may wish to light a candle at this point.

The priest says

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

THE EXSULTET

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 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.

The Exsultet continues

Amen.

THE VIGIL

GENESIS 1:1- 2:4A THE CREATION

Let us pray that we may see God's image restored.
Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Your love cannot be contained
and overflows in the wonder of creation.
You formed the universe out of nothing
and moulded us from the clay of the earth.
All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.
Amen.

EXODUS 14: 10- END; 15: 1A CROSSING THE RED SEA

Let us pray that God will give freedom to his enslaved people.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
You heard the agony of your people
as they cried out from their slavery,
and you gave them Moses
to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey.
Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today
and lead us through the turbulent sea of life
to our true home with you,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.
Amen.

EZEKIEL 36: 24- 28 SPRINKLED WITH THE WATER OF LIFE

Let us pray that God will give to the thirsting
a new outpouring of his refreshing spirit.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
When we are overwhelmed by the wasting world,
gather us again and renew us.
Create in us a new heart and a renewed spirit,
that we may be a people prepared
to live in your land and walk in your ways,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.
Amen.

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

The priest says
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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

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. **Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING- ROMANS 6: 3-11

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL READING- MARK 16: 1- 8

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in 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.**

THE BLESSING

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

HYMN

Thine be the glory,
Risen, conqu'ring 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.

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

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:
Bring us safe through Jordan
To Thy home above.

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

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