

Easter Saturday

Service of Light

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

Instructions are in italics.

Intent: The light of Christ overcoming darkness.

Vestments: Purple

As many of the congregation as possible should bring hand bells, to ring at the appropriate part of the service. Each person present should have a candle to hold, tealight candles in holders are preferable for safety reasons. A suitable tall church candle is to be available which will become this year's Paschal Candle. This needs a stand in the sanctuary. The candle will be pre-marked with symbols of Alpha and Omega and the year number AD. Five large grains of incense need to be ready in a shallow dish.

The building being in darkness the priest goes to the door of the church carrying the unlit Easter Candle. The congregation stand and face the priest who says:

Priest: Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death. As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of Gods 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 priest lights a taper and one or more of the following prayers are said as the candle is prepared:-

Blessing of the fire

Priest: Eternal God, who made this holy night to shine with 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 Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Marking of Paschal Candle

Priest: Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to Him and all ages: to Him be glory and power through every age and forever.

All: Amen.

The priest inserts five grains of incense into the paschal or Easter candle.

Priest: By His holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

All: Amen.

The Easter candle is lighted, the priest saying:

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

The priest bearing the candle proceeds into the body of the church, pauses and says:

Priest: The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

The priest bearing the candle proceeds half way down the aisle and says again (slightly louder):

Priest: The light of Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

The congregation's candles are lighted starting with those at the rear of the church and the priest takes the Easter candle to the chancel steps and says again (quite loudly):

Priest: The light of Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

The altar candles are lighted and the paschal candle placed in its holder.

The priest or a deacon sings the Exultet or Easter Proclamation:

Minister:

Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing choirs of Angels!

Exult all creation around God's throne!

Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Jesus Christ our King is risen!

Rejoice O earth, in shining splendour!

Be radiant in the brightness of your King!

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!

Darkness vanishes for ever.

Rejoice O mother church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour shines upon you!

Let this place resound with joy!

Echoing the mighty sound of all God's people!
My dearest friends, standing with me in this holy light,
Join me in asking God for mercy,
That He may give his unworthy minister,
The grace to sing His Easter praises.
We pray you heavenly Father,
Through Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God for ever and ever....

All: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give Him thanks and praise.

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

Priest:

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices,
We should praise the unseen God our all powerful Father,
And His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
For Christ has ransomed us with his blood
And paid the price for us of Adam's sin to our eternal Father,
This is our Passover feast when Christ the true lamb is slain
Whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.
This is the night when you first saved our fathers
You freed the people of Israel from their slavery,
And led them dry shod through the sea.
This is the night when Christians everywhere,
Washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement
Are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.
This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death,
And rose triumphant from the grave.
What good would life have been for us, had Christ not come as our redeemer?
Father how wonderful you care for us!
How boundless your merciful love!
To ransom a slave you gave away your son.
O happy fault! O necessary sin of Adam,
Which gained for us so great a redeemer!
Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God,

To see Christ rising from the dead!
Of this night scripture says:
'This night will be as clear as day.
It will become my light and my joy!'
The power of this holy night dispels all evil,
Washes guilt away, restores lost innocence,
Brings mourners joy; It casts out hatred,
Brings us peace and humbles earthly pride.
Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth,
And Mankind is reconciled with God!
Therefore heavenly Father, in the joy of this night,
Receive our evening sacrifice of praise,
Your church's solemn offering.
Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but not dimmed,
A pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God.
Let it mingle with the lights of heaven,
And continue bravely burning to dispel,
The darkness of this night!
May the morning star which never sets
Find this flame still burning.
Christ that morning star who came back from the dead,
And shed his peaceful light on all mankind,
Your son who lives and reigns for ever and ever...
All: Amen.

After the Exultet, the candles of the congregation are extinguished.

Collect

Priest: Dear Friends in Christ we have begun our solemn vigil. Let us now hear the word of God recalling how he saved his people throughout history, and in the fullness of time sent his own son to be our redeemer. Through this Easter celebration may God bring to perfection the saving work he has begun in us.

Reading

Exodus 14 v. 15 to 15 v. 1

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 6 v. 3 - 11

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

A Hymn may be sung

Gospel

St Matthew 28 v. 1 - 10

Deacon: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The organ plays a fanfare, everyone rings bells.

The Gloria is said or sung:

All:

Glory to God in the Highest,
And peace to his people on earth,
Lord God heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
In the Glory of God the Father,
Amen.

The congregation's candles are re-lighted.

Litany of Saints

Priest:

Lord Have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord Have mercy
Holy Mary, mother of God
Saint Michael
Holy Angels of God

All:

Lord Have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord Have mercy
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us

Saint John the Baptist	Pray for us
Saint Joseph	Pray for us
Saint Peter & Saint Paul	Pray for us
Saint Luke	Pray for us
Saint John	Pray for us
Saint Mary Magdelene	Pray for us
Saint Stephen	Pray for us
Saint Lawrence	Pray for us
Saint Agnes	Pray for us
Saint Gregory	Pray for us
Saint Augustine	Pray for us
Saint Tugdual	Pray for us
Saint Basil	Pray for us
Saint Martin	Pray for us
Saint Benedict	Pray for us
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic	Pray for us
Saint Catherine	Pray for us
Saint Magnus & Nordic saints	Pray for us
All Holy men and women	Pray for us
Lord be merciful	Lord save your people
From all evil	Lord save your people
From every sin	Lord save your people
From everlasting death	Lord save your people
By your coming as man	Lord save your people
By your death and rising to new life	Lord save your people
By your gift of the Holy Spirit	Lord save your people
Be merciful to us sinners	Lord hear our prayer
By your grace bless this font where your children are reborn	Lord hear our prayer
Jesus Son of the living God	Lord hear our prayer
Christ hear us	Christ hear us
Lord Jesus hear our prayer	Lord Jesus hear our prayer

Silence is kept

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 so that we may rise with him into a new life within the family of His church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we all renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask these questions:

Priest: Do you turn to Christ?

All: We turn to Christ.

Priest: Do you repent of your sins?

All: We repent of your sins.

Priest: Do you renounce evil?

All: We renounce evil.

Priest: At our baptisms, we were signed with the cross. I sign you with the cross; the sign of Christ.

Each person comes forward for this.

Priest: May Almighty God deliver you from the power of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Each one: Amen.

Priest: The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said 'Peace be with you'. Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia! The peace of the risen Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

The congregation extinguish their candles at this point and share a sign of peace with one another.

Eucharist continues from the Peace or third Eucharistic prayer as appropriate.

At the conclusion of Eucharist, the following blessing is used:

Priest: Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!