

The Easter Liturgy

Saturday, 19th April, 2025



HOLY INNOCENTS
FALLOWFIELD

The Easter Liturgy 2025

THE NIGHT OF THE PASSEOVER, when Christ passed from death to the glory of the resurrection, is the most important moment in the entire liturgical year. We celebrate our own passing over from sin and death to newness of life in the risen Lord. Christ passed from darkness to light, and if we have kept Lent well, then this night will reveal to us in a special way what the splendour of God's life in us really means.

From the earliest times, Christians devoted this night of the resurrection to watching and waiting. As faithful people we keep the lamps of our faith alight so that when Christ emerges from the tomb he will find us awake and ready to celebrate his victory. The resurrection of the Lord is the climax of history towards which God our Father has been directing us all from the beginning of time.

The service is in four parts:

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT, during which the Easter candle is lit and carried in procession into the darkened church. The people light their own candles for the Easter Proclamation.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD follows, and the history of God's people in the Old Testament is proclaimed in a series of readings and psalms. This part of the service ends with 'Glory to God in the highest' and the Easter Gospel.

THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM takes place at the font, where the water is blessed and new converts enter sacramentally into the redeeming death and resurrection of Christ. The whole community then renews its commitment to Easter faith and Christian discipleship and service.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST, opened by the Peace, is a joyful celebration of the mystery of our redemption and of our new life as members of the risen body of Christ. We are a people called to proclaim the wonders of our God in the risen Lord. Alleluia!

BEFORE THE SERVICE everyone meets in silence.



THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

A FIRE IS LIT outside the church and everyone gathers round it. The president greets the people:

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Let us pray.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

After the blessing of the new fire, the Easter candle is blessed.

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha, and Omega; all time belongs to him, and all the ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

The president inserts five grains of incense in the candle in the form of a cross.

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

Amen.

The president lights THE EASTER CANDLE from the new fire:

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

The Easter candle is lifted high and we hear:

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The procession moves through the church, led by the candle. The response is sung again. ALL LIGHT THEIR CANDLES from the Easter candle and we move to stand around the sanctuary. WHEN THE PROCESSION REACHES THE LECTERN, the response is sung a third time. The Easter candle is placed in its holder.

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION is sung. A cantor sings the refrain once at the beginning which is repeated by all before going into the verses.

MOST HOLY NIGHT

Dan Schutte

REFRAIN

Most ho - ly night, most bless - ed of nights, when
Christ broke the chains of the dark - ness!
God's might - y love is strong - er than death.
Christ our _____ Light shines for - ev - er!

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef, 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'REFRAIN'. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The fourth staff ends with a fermata over the final note.

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Rejoice, O children of the earth and holy ones of heav'n above!
Be glad this blessed night and join creation's song!

Rejoice and sing, O Mother Church! The Saviour's glory shines on you.
O let this holy place resound with joyful songs of praise!

Let ev'ry tear be wiped away. Let ev'ry sorrow fade,
for Jesus the Christ has risen from the grave. **Refrain**

For truly it is right and just that on this night we sing with joy
to praise and thank the unseen God and Jesus Christ the Son.

The power of this holy night dispels the darkness of our shame,
for Christ has saved us with his blood and ransomed us from death.

O happy fault of Adam's sin! O blessed day of grace
which gained for us a Saviour, Christ the Lord. **Refrain**

For this is the Passover feast of God when Christ the blessed Lamb is slain,
whose holy blood has marked our homes and sheltered us from death.

This holy night makes all things new, our hearts restored to holiness,
washed clean of every stain of sin and bathed in heaven's light.

How wonderful your care for us! How boundless is your love!
To ransom a slave you gave away your son. **Refrain**

Creator of the heav'nly lights, we sing to you with grateful hearts.
Receive this off'ring of our praise, our evening song of joy.

Accept from us this Easter flame that joins with all the stars of night
to guide the journey of our feet and lead us with its light.

For Jesus Christ, the Morning Star whose light will never fade,
has shattered the night to bring his endless day! **Refrain**

AFTER THE PROCLAMATION ALL PLEASE SIT DOWN.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The president introduces the readings:

Dear friends, 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.

There are FOUR READINGS from the Old Testament. Each reading is followed by a response and a COLLECT. The response takes the form of a common refrain and a verse of the designated psalms.

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1, 26–31a

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ON THIS MOST HOLY DAY

Dan Schutte

REFRAIN

On this most ho - ly day that the Lord has made,
let us ev - er re - joice and be glad!

VERSES

1. By your wis - dom, O God, you cre -
1. a - ted the earth. In the light of your
1. glo - ry the heav - ens were made.

Refrain text based on Psalm 118. Text and music © 2000, Daniel L. Schutte.
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Let us pray:

The president says the FIRST COLLECT. At the end: Amen.

SECOND READING Genesis 22:1–18

At the end: This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Refrain: On this most holy day that the Lord has made,
let us ever rejoice and be glad!

Verse: *You protect us, O God, with the might of your love.
You will ever defend us and keep us from harm. Refrain*

ON THIS MOST HOLY DAY

Dan Schutte

REFRAIN

On this most ho - ly day that the Lord has made,
let us ev - er re - joice and be glad!

Refrain text based on Psalm 118. Text and music © 2000, Daniel L. Schutte.
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Let us pray:

SECOND COLLECT *At the end:* **Amen.**

THIRD READING Exodus 14:10–31, 15:20–21

At the end: This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Refrain: On this most holy day that the Lord has made,
let us ever rejoice and be glad!

Verse: *Through the waters of death you delivered our way.
In the land of your promise you brought us to stay.* *Refrain*

Let us pray:

THIRD COLLECT *At the end:* **Amen.**

FOURTH READING Ezekiel 37:1–14

At the end: This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Refrain: On this most holy day that the Lord has made,
let us ever rejoice and be glad!

Verse: *Let us think of your deeds and the work of your hands.
Your immense love surrounds us, and in you we trust.* *Refrain*

Let us pray:

FOURTH COLLECT *At the end:* **Amen.**

AFTER THE FOURTH READING with its response and prayer, the altar candles are lit. PLEASE STAND. After the altar candles have been lit, bells are sounded as an introduction to the Gloria.

**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 church lights are put on and everyone puts out their candles.

Let us pray.

The president says THE COLLECT:

At the end: **Amen.**

PLEASE SIT

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 6: 3–11

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

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.

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. 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.

For whoever has died is freed from sin.

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

The death he died, he died to sin, once for all;

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

At the end: This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

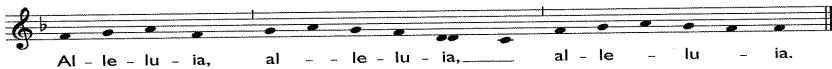
Psalm 114

cf. v. 2 Ju-dah be-came God's sanc-tua-ry and Is-ra-el his do-mi - nion.



1. When Israel came | out of Egypt,
The house of Jacob from a people of | a strange tongue,
Judah be | came his sanctuary, // Israel | his dominion. *Refrain*
2. The sea saw | that, and fled; // Jordan was | driven back.
The mountains | skipped like rams,
The little hills | like young sheep. *Refrain*
3. What ailed you, O sea, | that you fled?
O Jordan, that you were | driven back?
You mountains, that you | skipped like rams,
You little hills | like young sheep? *Refrain*
4. Tremble, O earth, at the presence | of the Lord,
At the presence of the | God of Jacob,
Who turns the hard rock into a pool of water,
the flint-stone into a springing well. *Refrain*

Please stand for the gospel acclamation:



Verse



*I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and | the living one;
I was dead, and now behold I am alive for | evermore.*

GOSPEL READING Matthew 28.1-10

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM

Please turn towards the font, or move to stand around it. The president addresses the baptism candidates:

Do you wish to be baptised?

They reply: I DO

The president addresses the whole congregation:

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Dear friends in Christ, the Church receives these people with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The president addresses the candidates:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin? **I DO.**

Do you reject evil? **I DO.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? **I DO.**

Do you trust in him as Lord? **I DO.**

The president makes the sign of the cross on each person's forehead, saying:

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

After the last person has been anointed:

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

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

The president stands before the water of baptism and says:

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptise into his fellowship those who come to him in faith. Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Springs of water, bless the Lord:

Give him glory and praise for ever.

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 to a new life within his holy catholic Church. So now I ask you all to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptised, and in which you live and grow.

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 his 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 life everlasting. Amen.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The president pours water on each candidate, saying:

I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen.**

Each newly baptised person is given a candle, lit from the Paschal flame, and the president leads the WELCOME:

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

خداوند، تو را از هر بدی دور نگاه می‌دارد و جاننت را حفظ می‌کند
پیوسته از تو مراقبت می‌نماید. خداوند، رفت و آمد تو را زیر نظر دارد و

**The Lord shall keep you from all evil; it is he who shall keep your soul.
The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household
of faith with all those who have been baptised in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The president introduces the Peace:

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.
Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

EVERYONE makes an appropriate gesture of peace. Please return to your place.

The bread and wine are brought to the altar. Please join in:

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing, praise to our victorious king;
who has washed us in the tide, flowing from his pierced side.
Praise we him whose love divine, gives his guests his blood for wine.
Gives his body for the feast: love the victim, love the priest.**

**Where the Paschal blood is poured, death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Christ the Lamb whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, Paschal bread:
With sincerity and love, eat we manna from above.**

**Mighty victim, from on high, powers of hell beneath thee lie;
Death is broken in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light.
Now thy banner thou dost wave, conquering Satan and the grave,
See the prince of darkness quelled, heaven's bright gates are open held.**

**Pascal triumph, Paschal joy, only sin can this destroy;
From sin's death do thou set free, souls reborn dear Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory, songs of praise, risen Lord to thee we raise.
Risen Lord, all praise to thee, ever with the Spirit be.**

The president says a prayer over the gifts to which we all respond:
Blessed be God for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER now follows.

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 PRESIDENT continues the prayer, thanking God for his saving works and then invites the people to join their praises with the whole company of heaven:

...we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

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.

THE PRESIDENT asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine, and then repeats the Lord's own words over the bread and cup.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES, joining our offering with Christ's sacrifice of himself.

At the end of the prayer the president says:

...all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE PRESIDENT INTRODUCES THE LORD'S PRAYER and all say together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Given 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.**

We sit or kneel as the president breaks the consecrated bread in pieces for all to share:

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb. Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

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.

The president addresses those who wish to come to Holy Communion:

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Alleluia! Let us keep the feast.

Those who wish to receive Holy Communion or a blessing approach the altar.

When everyone who wishes to has received Holy Communion there will be a time of silent prayer. At the end, please join in:

Love's redeeming work is done; fought the fight the battle won;

Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er! Lo he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Christ has burst the gates of hell;

Death in vain forbids him rise; Christ has conquered paradise.

Lives again our glorious king; where O death, is now thy sting?

Dying once, he all doth save; where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led, following our exulted head,

Made like him, like him we rise; ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Praise to thee by both be given:

Thee we greet triumphant now; hail the Resurrection, thou!

CHARLES WESLEY 1707–1788

Let us pray.

After a time of silent prayer.

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. Amen.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please take this leaflet home with you.

Music: Toccata from Suite pour orgue (Denis Bedard)

Easter Dawn

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

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<http://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2012/04/08/easter-dawn/>