The Service of Light

Whom do you seek in the sepulchre,

O followers of Christ?

**Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.**

John 20.1-18 is read

Jesus is not here. He is risen!

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen today!**

Come and see the place where the Lord was laid.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go quickly, tell the disciples that the Lord is risen indeed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The Lord is risen from the grave,
who for us hung on the cross. Alleluia.**

Eternal light, shining beyond the heavens,
radiant sun, illuming all regions, above, below, across.
True light, enlightening every person coming into the world,

you dispel the darkness of our hearts,
and enlighten us with the splendour of your glory:
Bless, we pray, this fire which we use in our worship,
that it may proclaim your Presence and your Power.

*The new fire is lit*

Here we are, O God at the start of this new Easter Day and ready for you to show your love and care. As we watch this light be born and grow in front of us, help us to open our eyes to the wonder around us. Show us how we must live with everyone and everything that surrounds us. We bless you for your gifts of light and warmth as it comes from our sisters and brothers. Help us to be a light to them. X

*As the fire kindles we pray that:*

We receive this fire

As a sign of the Fire of the Spirit

**Fire that purifies, fire that enlightens,**

**Fire that never dies.**

A renewing fire:

**To the poor and the oppressed,**

**the fearful and lonely and all who suffer,**

**those in the valley of doubt,**

**and the dark night of confusion or despair.**

You my brothers and sisters are the light of the world.

your light must shine in people’s sight so that seeing your good works,

they may praise your Father in heaven.

**O God, O Sun of light and warmth and power and healing.**

**I welcome you this Easter morning.**

**Brighten up my life.**

**Cover my body and my spirit with your warmth.**

**Show me how I should live this day. Amen**

*The Exsultet is sung.*

May the light of Christ which has come into the world enable you to walk in that light all the days of your life. **Amen**

 The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

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 so that we may rise through our Baptism to a new life within the family of the church.

Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our Baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ and our rejection of all that is evil.

We all wander far from God and lose our way:

Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.

In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

**I do.**

Do you reject evil?

**I do.**

The Easter candle is lit

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I do.**

Do you trust in him as Lord?

**I do.**

We praise you, loving Father,

for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptised in the River Jordan,

where your Spirit came upon him

and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers to baptise all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,

that those who are baptised in it

may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit,

may know that they are loved as your children,

safe in Christ for ever.

**Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church into which you were Baptized.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,

source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,

who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,

who gives life to the people of God

and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ: today God has touched you with his love and given you a place among his people. God promises to be with you in joy and in sorrow, to be your guide in life, and to bring you safely to heaven. God invites you on a life-long journey. Together with all God's people you must continue to explore the way of Jesus and grow in friendship with God, in love for his people, and in serving others. **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**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Alleluia! Christ is risen:

**he is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

he has given us new life and hope!

**He has raised Jesus from the dead!**

God has claimed us as his own:

he has brought us out of darkness!

**He has made us light to the world!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen:

**he is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.** X

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYERS

SERMON

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. Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you
**and also with you.**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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**.

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Alleluia! Let us keep the feast.**

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia Christ is risen.
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Jesus Christ we greet you!

Your hands still have holes in them,

your feet are still wet from the dew;

and with the memory of our names undimmed by three days of death

you meet us risen from the grave.

We fail to understand how;

we puzzle at the risen why.

But you have come: not to answer our questions

but to show us your face.

**You are alive and the world can rejoice again.**

**Alleluia! Amen.**

 All our problems **we send to the cross of Jesus.**All our difficulties **we send to the cross of Jesus.**All the devil’s works **we send to the cross of Jesus.**All our hopes **we set on the risen Christ;**and the blessing of God almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Alleluia Christ is risen.
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**