

The Easter Vigil

This year will be like no Easter Vigil before, because of the restrictions on meeting. However, let us nevertheless gain strength from this abbreviated service, knowing that in spite of the current situation, Christ is our light—indeed the Light of the World. We celebrate this as dusk falls, following the tradition known to Our Lord in his Jewish faith - a new day beginning as night arrives. For us, this highlights HIS light within our lives.

The Service of Light

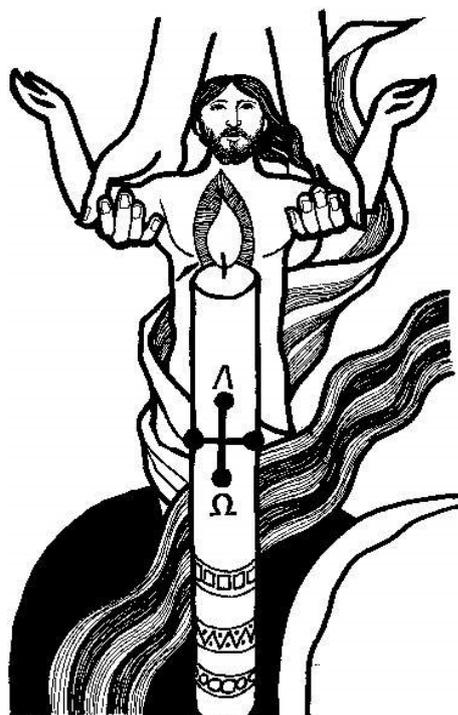
An Introduction is made and the Paschal Candle is blessed with time-hallowed ceremony. Because we will all be in our own homes, the fire I shall use is a lighter, but this serves the purpose of new fire in the circumstances.

The candle is marked with a stylus with the sign of the cross and then the date in the corners of the cross and the following words are said;

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, forever. Amen

After this, the so-called 'grains of incense' are pushed into the candle to represent the wounds of Christ as the following words are said:

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

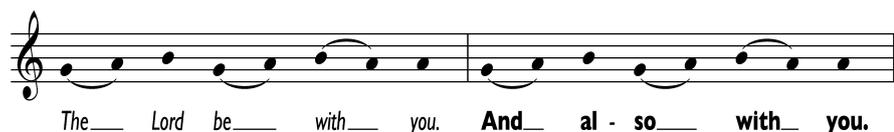


Then three times the following responsive is made to mark Christ's resurrection:

The Light of Christ: **Thanks be to God**

The Exsultet

The Exsultet is a very ancient hymn in praise of the Resurrection and addresses the light represented by the candle. We know that a form of this extended preface existed in the third century. Even the bee who produced the wax is praised! In the middle is the Sursum Corda:



The Liturgy of the Word

The three readings represent Christian understanding of God's presence and saving grace within the human story:

Genesis 1: 1-5 & 26-end

God saw everything that he had made and it was good.

Collect

Exodus 14: 15-15:1a

Tell the Children of Israel to walk through the seas to the dry ground

Collect

Ezekiel 36: 25-28

I shall pour clean water over you and I shall give you a new heart

Collect

Hymn: The strife is o'er, the battle done (in place of the Gloria this evening)

Collect

Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptised into the death
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;
through his merits,
who died and was buried and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Romans 6: 3-11

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Easter Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew (28: 1-10)

Glorify to you, O Lord

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Hymn: Love's redeeming work is done

The Blessing and Dismissal

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

