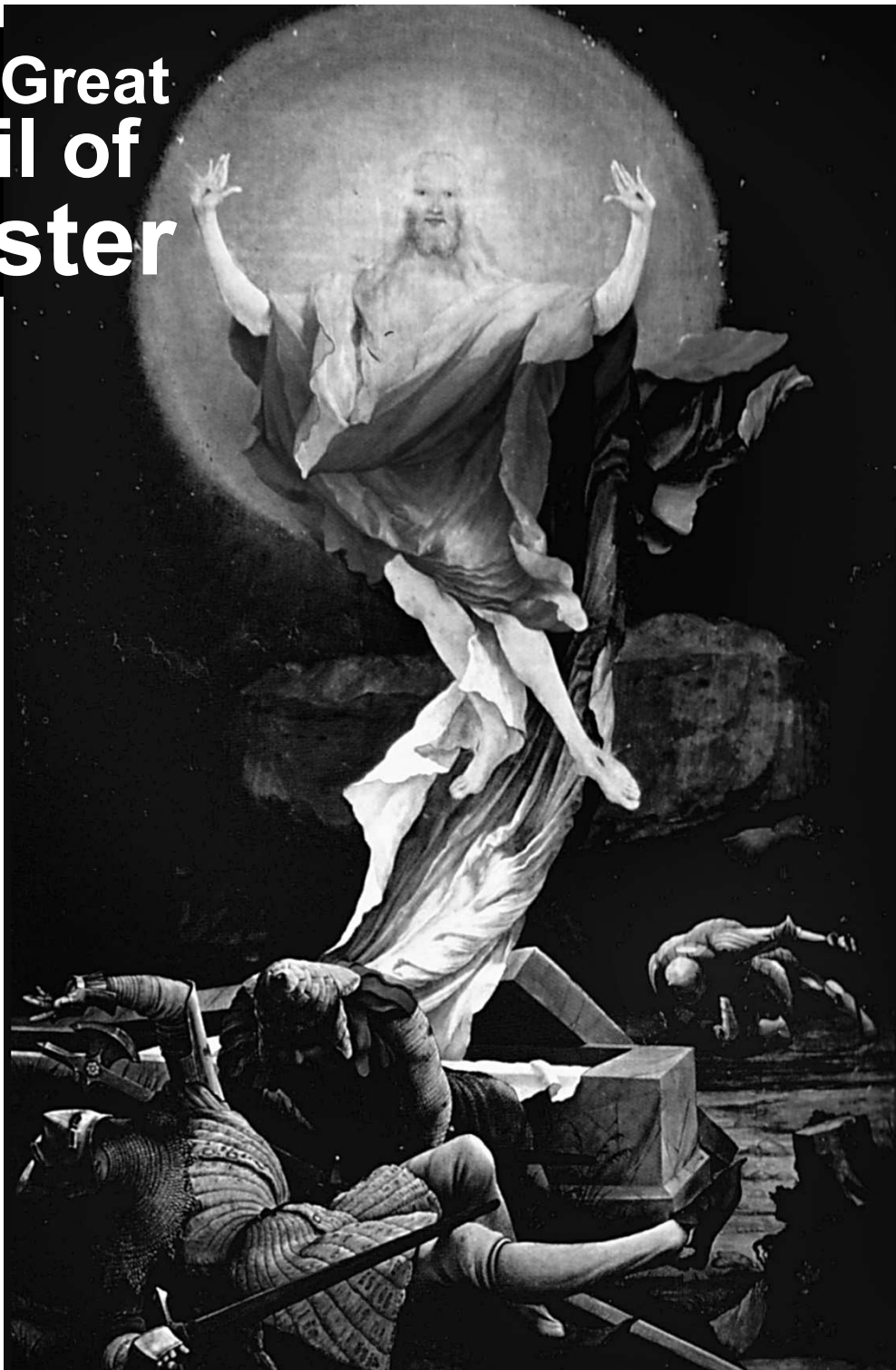


The Great Vigil of Easter



Cover Image: Matthias Grunewald, "The Resurrection of Christ" (right wing of the Isenheim Altarpiece). ca.1512-1516

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Service of Light

In the darkness, fire is kindled.

Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries; we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

FLet us pray.
Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world.
Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The paschal candle is lighted from the new fire. The deacon (a priest if there is no deacon) takes the paschal candle, lifts it high, and sings,

The light of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The procession enters the church, led by the deacon with the paschal candle. As the deacon processes with the candle, she will stop at select moments, and those with their own candles may light them from the paschal candle.

The light of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The light of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**
Other candles and lamps in the church will now be lighted.

The Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ,
our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, 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 song of all God's people!

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and
voices we should praise the unseen God, the all-
powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus
Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood,
and paid for us the price 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 first you saved our forebears:
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.

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How
boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you
gave away your Son.

The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes
guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners
joy.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth
and we are 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. May it
always 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 creation, your Son who lives and reigns
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

After the Exsultet, if candles are being held, they may be extinguished.

The Liturgy of the Word

Dear friends in Christ, let us now listen attentively to
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.

Readings

Genesis 1.1—2.4a Psalm 136.1—9, 23—26

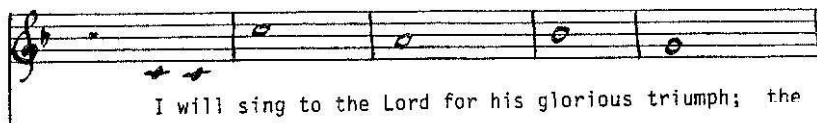
Sung by Choir only

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation, by which in the fullness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Exodus 14.10—31; 15.20—21 Canticle 1 (Exodus 15.1b—13, 17—18)

Refrain



Prayer

God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ezekiel 36.24—28 As the Deer Pants for The Water

Sung by Band only

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, in the paschal mystery you established the new covenant of reconciliation. Grant that all

who are born again in baptism may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Zephaniah 3.14–20 Psalm 98

Refrain

PRAISE

365 Glory to God on High

1 Glo - ry to God on high, and peace to all on earth.
2 Our Sav - iour, Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 You on - ly are the Lord. You on - ly are most high.

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, our heaven - ly King,
the sac - ri - fi - cial Lamb, who saves the world from sin,
You on - ly are the ho - ly one, Lord Je - sus Christ.

light, look
terful and sacred
vidence, carry out
hole world see
are being raised
ng made new, and
ection by him
on Jesus Christ

The

We give you praise, al - might - y God and
have mer - cy Lord. Be - side the Fa - ther's
And now you reign with Fa - ther and with

Fa - ther blessed in glo - ry bright.
hand en - throned, now hear our prayer.
Spir - it one in glo - rious light.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Romans 6.3–11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore 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.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We 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. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to

God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 114

Refrain

When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob



from a people of strange speech, Judah became
God's sanctuary and Israel his dominion. **R.**

The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went
back. The mountains skipped like rams, and the little
hills like young sheep. **R.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan that
you turned back? You mountains, that you skipped
like rams? You little hills like young sheep? **R.**

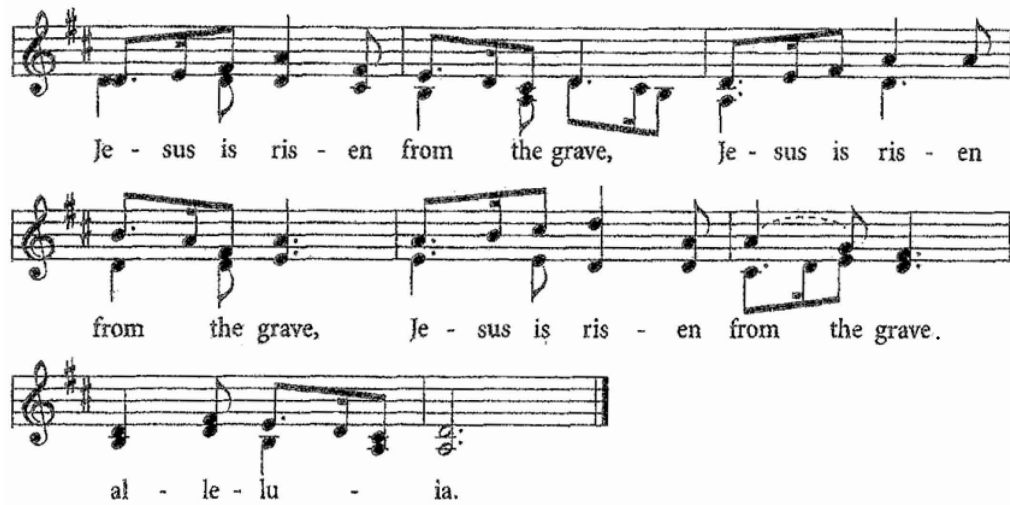
Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the
presence of the God of Jacob, who turned the hard
rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing
spring. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation



Refrain

Verse



The Gospel

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do

you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospel Acclamation *Reprise*

Sermon

Band Anthem: Living Waters

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. 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, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting 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 celebrate our fellowship in him in faith.

We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dear friends,
through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

People **I will, with God's help.**

God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May he keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn B220

The Holy Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

All **God of life and health, accept the offering of your holy people, and grant that we who are baptized into Christ may be perfected in your salvation, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

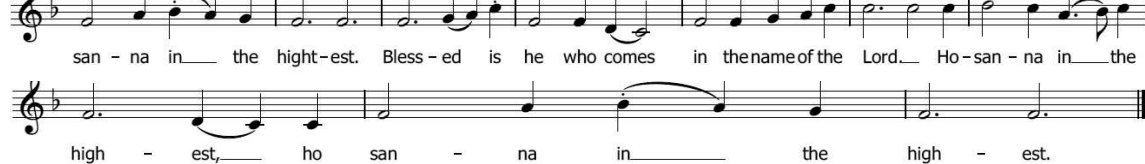
Celebrant We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour
and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom
you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the
Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived
and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God
and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will
he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring
release to those who place their hope in you; and so
he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give
up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the
chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of
sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into
the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim
the glory of your name.



Celebrant

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours,

Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit
in the holy Church, now and for
ever.

People

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer - Sung

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All **Now we are raised to new life.**

Celebrant We were buried in your tomb.

All **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Celebrant Live in us, that we may live in you.

The Communion

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Angus Dei

O Lamb of God, -you take a - way the sins - of the
 world____ have mer - cy on____ us, Lamb of God, and grant_ us_ your peace._

Post Communion Hymn B223

The Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Giver of all, we are nourished with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with the Spirit of love, and unite us in faith, that we may be witnesses to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.**

The Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,

All **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn – Jesus Christ is Risen Today B.203

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go forth in the name of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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