

Easter Vigil
The Service of Light



Easter Day Dawn Service
In the Garden
5:30am

Reading

Gospel of John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing

him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Lighting and Blessing of the New Fire

Let us pray.

Beloved people of God, on this most holy morning when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through light and the word we proclaim Christ’s death and resurrection, we share Christ’s triumph over sin and death, and we await Christ’s coming again in glory.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

The life of Christ is the light of all people.
**The light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness will not overcome it.**

The new fire is lit

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and kindle in us the desire to shine with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of Righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The light of Christ rises in glory,
Casting out the shadow of sin and death.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
Radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes forever!

Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!

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!

Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!

This is the night in which, in ancient times, God delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, and led them, dry-shod, through the sea. This is the night in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness. This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored in holiness. This is the night in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. O night truly blessed, which alone

was worthy to know the time and hour in which Christ rose again from hell!

Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!

This is the night of which it is written: “The night is as clear as the day,” and, “then shall my night be turned into day.”

The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness; washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride.

Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!

Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, reflected in the burning of this candle. We sing the glories of this pillar of fire, the brightness of which is not diminished even when its light is divided and borrowed. For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants, have made for the substance of this candle. This is the night in which heaven and earth are joined – things human and things divine. We, therefore, pray to you, O God, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of night and be mingled with the

lights of heaven. May Christ the Morning Star find it burning, that Morning Star who never sets, that Morning Star who, rising from the grave, faithfully sheds light on the whole human race.

And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection your whole church, giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

**Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

Hymn: *Now the Green Blade Riseth*

- 1. Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been: *Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***
- 2. In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain, thinking that never he would wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: *Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***
- 3. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain, quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen: *Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, thy touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; *Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace. Alleluia!
Alleluia!

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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