



"where the river flows everything will live"



The Easter Vigil
Holy Saturday

Part 1 – The Service of Light

THE BLESSING OF THE FIRE

DT: 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. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Make Leonie and Peter's fire holy, and inflame us and all your people 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.**

READING: Isaiah 60:1-3, 15, 18-20. Fiona

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

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

EVERYONE LIGHTS THEIR CANDLES

DT: The Light of Christ

Janice: Thanks be to God

DT: Alleluia! Christ is risen

Janice: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

EXSULTET (*SUNG BY TOM*)

Sing Choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Around God's throne exult in harmony!
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Salute your king in glorious symphony!

Sing choirs of earth! Behold your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night has passed; the day of life is here!

Sing church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!
Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore!
Let all God's people shout a long Amen!

DT: It is right and good that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, Father Almighty, the unseen God, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has saved us by his death, paid for us the price of Adam's sin, and reconciled us once again to you.

- Tom: For this is the Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.
- Janice: This is the night when you first saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery, and leading her safely through the sea.
- David R: This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.
- Wendy: This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ.
- DT: Most blessed of all nights! Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence is regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Night truly blessed, when heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering; and grant that this Easter candle may make our darkness light. For Christ the Morning Star has risen, never again to set, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

AMEN.

Part 2 – The Vigil

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.

READINGS

Genesis 1:1- 2:4a, - Tom

Exodus 14:10-15:1, - Mike

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - Roger

Ezekiel 37:1-14, - Leonie

Ezekiel 47:1-12 - Diana

COLLECT

DT: Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory

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.**

Romans Chapter 6:1-11. Peter

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10: Janice

Part 3 – THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

DT: This is the night in which our Lord and Saviour was raised from the dead. Remembering the words of St Paul that we who are baptised must consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins and reaffirm the solemn promises we made in Holy Baptism when we rejected Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

DT: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of the Devil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Kathy: I do

DT: Will you persevere in the way of righteousness and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Emma: I will, with God's help

DT: Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made you and all the world, and in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed you and all humanity: and in the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies you and all the elect people of God?

David R: I do so believe and trust

DT: Will you obey God's holy will and commandment and continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers?

Fiona: I will, with God's help

DT: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,

and bestowed on us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*PROBABLY KATHY*)

THE PEACE

DT: The risen Jesus came and stood among his disciples and said, Peace be with you! When they saw it was the Lord they were glad and filled with joy.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with
you

Janice: And also with you. Alleluia!

DT: Let us offer one another a sign of peace

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

DT: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

Janice: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

DT: God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**