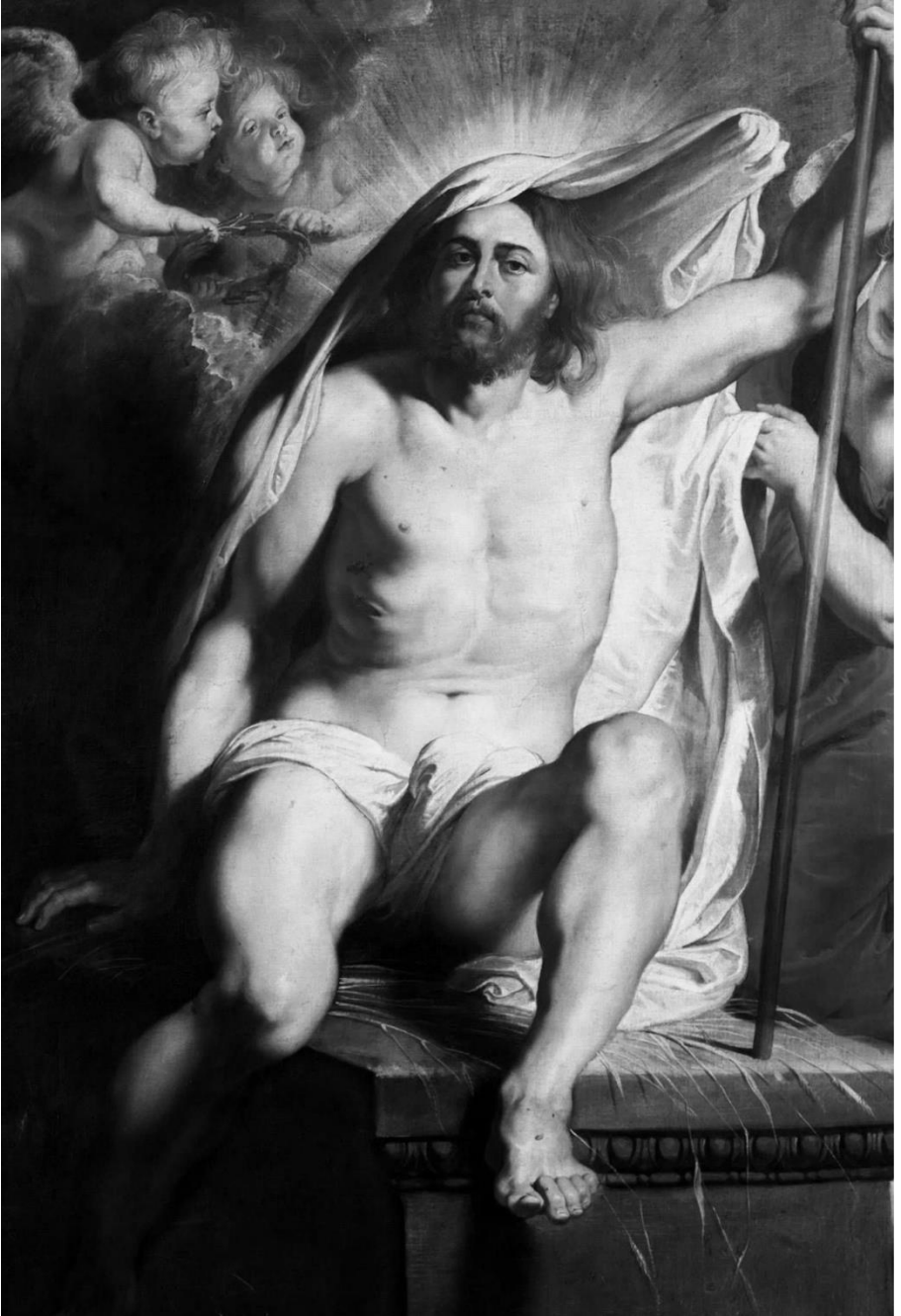




Christ Church
SHELburnE

The Great
Vigil of Easter



WELCOME

We're glad that you are here in God's house. This booklet contains everything you need to follow the service. If Anglican worship is unfamiliar to you, that's okay. Prioritize taking it all in with an open heart. Children of all ages are welcome at Christ Church. They are treasures from God. Feel free to move around the church during the service, if that's helpful for keeping your children engaged.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Today is Easter morning, the beginning of our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, we begin this service not in the joy of the resurrection, but in the darkness, just as dawn is breaking. We take the role of Jesus' female disciples, who went early in the morning to the tomb to weep. This service is a "vigil," which means a time of watching and waiting in prayer through the still and quiet hours of the night. We are waiting to discover that Christ is no longer in his tomb.

We begin with the "service of light," in which the resurrection is first represented by the lighting of a new fire and a new candle. We hear the paschal proclamation, celebrating the light of Christ which overcomes death, and which unites us with all those throughout history, especially the ancient Israelites, who also experienced God's liberation from slavery to sin and to spiritual death.

Our focus then shifts to baptism. Baptism makes us participants in the death and resurrection of Jesus, so there is no more appropriate occasion to renew our baptismal vows than at this precise moment, when we meditate simultaneously on Christ's death and his victory over death.

Finally, the resurrection is proclaimed fully and openly. We sing a joyful "Alleluia" as we hear the story of the women discovering that Jesus tomb was empty.

Address

The priest enters in silence and says,

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Then the priest invites the congregation to gather outside.

Blessing of the New Fire

Outside

The priest lights the New Fire.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: ✠ sanctify this new fire, we pray, and so set us aflame with the fire of your love, that with pure hearts and kindled affections we may attain to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of the New Fire

The priest touches the symbol on the candle and says,

Christ yesterday and today; the Beginning and the End, Alpha and Omega; his are all times and all ages; to him be glory and dominion through all ages of eternity. **Amen.**

By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and preserve us. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is lit from the New Fire, and the priest says,

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The congregation returns to the church.

Sharing of the Light

The priest processes with the candle toward the altar to place it in its stand, stopping three times, and each time singing,

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Then the priest shares the light with a few members of the congregation, who share it with the rest of the congregation, using candles they received at the door. Each time the light is passed, the person bearing the light says, "The light of Christ," and the person receiving the light says, "Thanks be to God."

Paschal Proclamation

Sitting; priest

Rejoice now, all ye heavenly legions of Angels, all high things that pass understanding; for the King that cometh with victory, let the trumpet proclaim salvation. Sing with joy, O earth, illumined with this celestial radiancy; and enlightened by the eternal God, thy glory, believe and know thou hast put away the darkness of all mankind. So likewise let our Mother, his holy Church, welcome the bright beams of light shed upon her; and let his holy courts be filled with praises of his people.

I pray and beseech you therefore, dearly beloved, that all ye who here are present seeking this heavenly brightness, make your supplication with me to the Almighty, that he would shew forth his mercy toward me; that he, who in my unworthiness numbered me among his ministers and called me to do him service, so also may vouchsafe to lighten my darkness, making me meet to praise this gift of fire with thankfulness; through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with him and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is right and just so to do.

It is very right and just, that with the service of our lips we should glorify and should praise with heart and soul God the Invisible and Almighty, and likewise his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour; who paid for us to the eternal Father the debt of Adam's transgression, and with his dear Blood wiped away the reproach of our former offences. Now therefore we sacrifice our Passover, wherein for us the very Lamb of God is slain, by whose Blood the doors of his faithful people are made holy.

The night is come, wherein, when our fathers, the children of Israel, were led forth out of Egypt, thou dividest the sea and madest them to pass over as on dry land. Yea, the night is come, that with the fiery pillar hath purged away the darkness of our condemnation. The night is come, whereby all that believe in Christ upon the face of all the earth, delivered from this naughty world and out of the shadow of death, are renewed unto grace, and are made partakers of eternal life. The night is come, wherein the bonds of death were loosed, and Christ, harrowing hell, rose again in triumph.

For wherefore should a man be born into this world, save that being born he might be redeemed? How wonderful then, O God, is thy loving kindness unto us thy children! Behold what manner of love he hath bestowed upon us: who to redeem a servant delivered

up his only Son! O wonderful providence of Adam's transgression, that by such a death sin might be done away! O blessed iniquity, for whose redemption such a price was paid by such a Saviour! O night verily blessed: to thee alone that time and that hour were made manifest, when our Saviour rose again from death unto life. The night is come whereof David said: "Behold the night is as clear as the day: then shall my night be turned into day." The mystery therefore of this most holy night putteth to flight the deeds of darkness, purgeth away sin, restoreth innocence to the fallen, and gladness unto them that mourn; casteth out hatred, bringeth peace unto all mankind, and boweth down mighty princes.

Therefore in this favourable time, accept, O Holy Father, this evening sacrifice of this lighted candle; which as at this time thy Holy Church maketh before thee, and offereth to thee by the hands of thy servants, the work of the bees, thy creatures. Ye hear brethren, the meaning of this pillar we have set up, whereunto in God's honour, the bright flame of fire doth set light; which though it be never so much divided, yet knoweth not variableness nor loseth ought of its splendour; for the wax that melteth doth but feed the flame, for thereunto have the creatures of God's hand brought it forth, that it should give light in the darkness.

O night verily blessed, which did spoil the people of Egypt and magnified the Hebrews! O night wherein heaven and earth are joined, and mankind partaketh with the Godhead! We pray thee therefore, O most merciful, that this candle, which we have lighted and consecrated before thee in thine own Name, may continue to shine forth without ceasing, and may vanquish all the shades of darkness; that being accepted before thee as a sweet savour, it may be numbered with the lights that thou hast kindled. May the daystar

find it burning when he dawneth into day; the daystar that riseth and knoweth not his going down, but coming forth from the places of darkness gladly giveth forth light unto all creation. We beseech thee therefore, O most merciful, that thou wouldest direct and guide us thy servants, and the hearts of all thy faithful family; and all those also that minister in thy service, especially Sandra our Bishop, so helping us with continual grace, that we may pass our time in rest and quietness, in the glad solemnity of our redemption. Do thou also have respect unto those who rule in authority over us, and by the unspeakable gift of thy love and pity direct their thoughts unto righteousness and peace, that they, together with all thy people, may come from the toils of this world unto their heavenly country.

Through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Lesson ✦ Exodus 14:19-22

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle ✦ Exodus 15

Reader & people respond

I will sing to the Lord for his glorious triumph; *the horse and the rider he has hurled into the sea.* The Lord has become my strength and refuge; *the Lord himself has become my saviour.* He is my God and I will praise him; *my father's God and I will exalt him.* The Lord himself is a mighty warrior; *the Lord, the Lord is his name.* Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power; *your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.* Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods, *holy, awesome, worker of wonders?* In steadfast love you led your people, *you guided your*

redeemed with your great strength. You brought them in safety to your holy place, *and planted them firm on your own mountain.* You brought them into your own house. *The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.*

Collect

Priest

Let us pray: O God, whose 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 offered to 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Epistle ✦ 1 Peter 3:17-22

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle ✦ Psalm 46:1-8

Reader & people respond

God is our refuge and strength, *a very present help in trouble.* Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;* Though its waters rage and foam, *and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.* The LORD of hosts is with us; *the God of Jacob is our stronghold.* There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *the holy habitation of the Most High.* God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; *God shall help her at the break of day.* The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.* The LORD of hosts is with us; *the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

Let us pray: Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Savior 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 the merits of him who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Holy Gospel ✦ Matthew 27:57-66

Standing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then the priest reads the Gospel. After, priest and people respond:

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Procession to the Font ✦ Psalm 42:1-7

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *so longs my soul for you, O God.* My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?* My tears have been my food day and night, *while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"* I pour out my soul when I think on these things; *how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,* With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *among those who keep holy-day.* Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *and why are you so disquieted within me?* Put your trust in God; *for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*

Blessing of Baptismal water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is right and just so to do.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John in the River Jordan when the Holy Spirit descended upon him as a dove.

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 made regenerate by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now, Father, ✠ sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized here be cleansed from sin, be born again, and continue for ever faithful in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and

vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced the devil and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Do you, here in the presence of God and the Church, renew the solemn promises and vows made at your Baptism and commit yourself to keep them? *(People:) I do.*

Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God? *I do.*

Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God? *I do.*

Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God? *I do.*

Let us recite the faith of our baptism:

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

Do you profess this faith? *I do.*

Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life? *I will, God being my helper.*

Then the priest sprinkles the congregation with water from the font, saying,
Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Alleluia & Holy Gospel ✦ Mark 16:1-7

Standing

*The priest retrieves the Alleluia scroll from where it was buried in Pre-Lent.
The priest sings Alleluia many times and the people repeat it each time.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then the priest reads the Gospel. After, priest and people respond:

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then the responsive Alleluia is repeated.

Departure

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The congregation departs in joy, but without a dismissal. The service continues with Holy Communion at 10:30 AM. All are welcome to celebrate the resurrection with at our Easter breakfast in the hall after this service.

UPCOMING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, 8:00 AM *Easter Breakfast (in the Hall)*

Sunday, 10:30 AM *Easter Communion*

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday, 8:00 AM *Traditional, no music*

Sunday, 10:30 AM *Contemporary, with music*