

# The Great Vigil of Pascha (Easter)

## LITURGY OF LIGHT

This service, the first service of the Paschal (Easter) season, begins on the evening or early morning before sunrise on The Festival of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday). A fire is prepared outside the church. The people assemble, one of the faithful carrying the Easter candle. Others carry the Easter icons.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we gather with all the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord Christ. If we honour the memory of his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we may be confident to share in his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Hear the word of the gospel:

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
In the Word was life,  
and that life was the light of all humanity.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

Loving Lord, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Make this new fire holy, and inflame us with new hope. Through this Easter celebration, purify your people, mind and

body, and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The new Paschal Candle is blessed with the following motions:

|                                      |                                         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Christ yesterday and today           | (tracing the vertical arm of the cross) |
| the beginning and the end            | (the horizontal arm)                    |
| Alpha                                | (alpha)                                 |
| and Omega                            | (omega)                                 |
| all time belongs to him              | (the first numeral)                     |
| and all the ages                     | (the second numeral)                    |
| to him be the glory and power        | (the third numeral)                     |
| through every age for ever and ever. | (The last numeral)                      |

**Amen.**

Five grains of incense, symbolising the five wounds of crucifixion, are dropped into the candle.

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

With - in our dark-est night, you kin - dle the  
fire that ne - ver dies a - way, ne - ver dies a - way.

With - in our dark-est night, you kin - dle the  
fire that ne-ver dies a - way, ne - ver dies a - way.

The Paschal Candle is lit from the fire:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, illumine our hearts and minds.

The Easter candle is lifted high.

Christ our light. Thanks be to God.

**Christ our light! Thanks be to God.**

The worshippers may light individual candles from the Paschal candle.

All process to the darkened church, led by the person with the Paschal Candle. At the church door, someone knocks at the door as a symbol of the risen Christ knocking at the door of our hearts, and the candle is lifted high:

Christ our light! Thanks be to God.

**Christ our light! Thanks be to God.**

The people process into the church, following the Candle. Once more, in the centre of the church, the Candle is lifted high.

Christ our light! Thanks be to God.

**Christ our light! Thanks be to God.**

All take their places and remain standing.

**Hymn 361** *The day of resurrection*

The Candle is placed in its stand, between the lectern and the people.

Merciful God, accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night! May Christ, the Morning Star who never sets, find this flame still burning: he 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. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the centre of the church, lying atop the communion Table, is a cross with unlit candles attached to it, one for each of the readings to follow.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we have begun our solemn vigil. As we watch and wait, let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling God's liberating action throughout history, and how, in the fullness of time, God's Word became flesh and dwelt among us: Jesus our Redeemer! Through this Easter celebration, may God bring to perfection the saving and healing work already begun in us.

All are seated. The following chant is sung three times.



Each reading begins with the lighting of a candle on the cross.

**1<sup>st</sup> Candle: God's Creation of the World** Genesis 1.1-2.4a

Hear the word of God:

**We have heard and are silent.**

A time of silent reflection is observed.

*Jesus your light is shining within us . . .*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Candle: God's Provision to Abraham** Genesis 22. 1-18

Hear the word of God:

***We have heard and are silent.***

A time of silent reflection is observed.

*Jesus your light is shining within us . . .*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Candle: God's Deliverance of Israel** Exodus 14.10-31; 15:20-21

Hear the word of God:

***We have heard and are silent.***

A time of silent reflection is observed.

*Jesus your light is shining within us . . .*

**4<sup>th</sup> Candle: God's Salvation freely offered** Isaiah 55. 1-11

Hear the word of God:

***We have heard and are silent.***

A time of silent reflection is observed.

*Jesus your light is shining within us . . .*

**5<sup>th</sup> Candle: God's Promise of a New Heart** Ezekiel 36.24-28

Hear the word of God:

***We have heard and are silent.***

A time of silent reflection is observed.

*Jesus your light is shining within us . . .*

**6<sup>th</sup> Candle: God Gives Life to the Dead** Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Hear the word of God:

***We have heard and are silent.***

A time of silent reflection is observed.

*Jesus your light is shining within us . . .*

**7<sup>th</sup> Candle: God's Gathering of the People** Zephaniah 3. 14-20

Hear the word of God:

***We have heard and are silent.***

The remaining candles are lit. The main lights are put on and the white or gold banners unfurled. All stand, raise their hands and sing:



*Glo ry to God in the High - est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth!*

REPEAT



*Lord God heav - en - ly King, Al - might y God and Fa - ther.*



*We wor - ship you we give you thanks we praise you for your glo - ry!*



Descant Part: *Glo ry to God. Peace on earth!*

*Glo ry to God in the high - est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth!*



*Lord Je - sus Christ on - ly Son of the fa - ther Lord God, Lamb of God!*



*You take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on your peo - ple.*



*You, who are seat - ed at God's right hand re - ceive our prayer.*



Descant Part: *Glo ry to God. Peace on earth!*

*Glo ry to God in the high - est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth!*



*For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are Lord.*



*You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ*



*with the Fath - er and the Spi - rit in the glo - ry for - ev - er!*



Descant Part: *Glo ry to God. Peace on earth! A - men!*

*Glo ry to God in the high - est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth! A - men!*

The cross with its lighted candles is lifted high:

Lord God, you have brightened this night with the radiance of the risen Christ. Quicken the spirit of resurrection in your Church: renew us in mind and body to give you whole-hearted service. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The cross is placed on the communion table once more.

On this night of nights, when Christ returns from exile bringing all the suffering world with him, let us listen for the Word that is able to carry us from death to life.

The Holy Book is processed around the inner circle while the following is sung three times:

Lord, to whom shall we go?  
Yours are the words of e - ter - nal life. Repeat

All are seated.

**New Testament Reading** Romans 6.3-11

For the word of the Lord:  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 118** sung from 74 in the hymnbook

## The Gospel

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us stand to acclaim God's saving justice, attested by the Law and the prophets, and now revealed through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a, In ex - cel - sis De - o!  
(Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!)  
Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a, Alle - lu - ia! Alle - lu - ia!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint . . .  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Year A: Matthew 28.1-10  
Year B: Mark 16.1-8  
Year C: Luke 24.1-12

This is the Gospel of the Lord,  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a, In ex - cel - sis De - o!  
(Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!)  
Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a, Alle - lu - ia! Alle - lu - ia!

**Homily**

The *Easter Homily* of St. John Chrysostom

THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM

The font is filled with water. If any are to be baptised, they come forward and are presented by the elder who has accompanied them through their time of preparation. They may each give testimony to their faith in God.

### Prayer over the Waters

For the sacred gift of water, Holy God, we give you thanks and praise. In the beginning you brooded over the waters to bring order out of chaos, and with water you cleanse and replenish the earth, nourishing and sustaining all living things.

**God of new life, we give you thanks.**

From the great flood in the days of Noah you saved those on the ark; through the Red Sea you led your people to freedom from slavery; across the river Jordan you led Israel to the land of promise.

**God of new life, we give you thanks.**

In the waters of the Jordan Jesus was baptised by John and anointed by the Spirit. Passing through the deep waters of death, Christ buried our sins and emerged to resurrection life.

**God of new life, we give you thanks.**



Come and infuse these waters with your saving love. Charge them with consuming power, to swallow all that is false and sanctify all that is true.

**Come, Holy Spirit, Come.  
Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**

Come and pour forth your blessing tonight on all who present for baptism and all who recall their baptism. May all who come share in the joy of the redeemed in every time and place. In the name of God—Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver.

**Come, Holy Spirit, Come.  
Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**

### Confession of Faith

Let us stand to affirm the faith of the Church, the faith into which we are baptised, the faith into which we continue to live and grow:

**We believe in God,**

**the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,**

**God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

**from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We 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.**

Brothers and sisters, having prepared ourselves during Lent, let us now reaffirm our baptismal vows, declaring our allegiance to the risen Christ and our rejection of all that is evil.

In baptism, we are made one with Christ through faith.  
Do you turn to Jesus Christ and put your trust in him alone?  
***I turn to Christ.***

In baptism we rise against the dominion of evil.  
Do you renounce Satan and all that is corrupt?  
***I renounce all evil.***

In baptism, we are cleansed from sin and freed for godliness.  
Do you reject selfish living, loveless desires, and all that is false and unjust?  
***I reject them all.***

In baptism, we are ordained and commissioned to Christ's ministry.  
Do you promise to follow and obey Christ, and serve and pray for the world he loves?  
***I will serve the Lord all my life.***

In baptism, we are incorporated into the body of Christ. Do you pledge yourself to active membership of Christ's Church?  
***I pledge myself to God's people.***

We, who have been baptised into Christ, are one people in Christ. The life we once lived shared his death and was buried with him. When Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, we too were raised so that we might live a new life. So let us pledge ourselves anew to the life for which we are being saved. As Christ's holy people, we pledge ourselves again to live out the fullness of our baptism.

With God's help we will continue:  
***in the community of faith;  
in the apostle's teaching;  
in the breaking of bread and the prayers.***

With God's help we will continue:  
***to seek Christ in all people;  
to love our neighbour as ourselves.***

With God's help we will continue:  
***to proclaim and live the good news;  
to work and pray for justice and peace;  
to respect the dignity of every creature.***

This is our pledge,  
***for to this we were baptised,  
and in baptism,  
to this we were ordained.***

Come, Lord Jesus, refresh the lives of all your faithful people.

### **The baptism and prayer of confirmation**

Those presenting for baptism are baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are then anointed with oil as a sign that the Holy Spirit has come upon them. A suitable prayer of invocation is said over them by the presiding minister. They may be given a new alb, cross or garland, as a sign that they have now put off the 'old' and been clothed with Christ.

### **The Asperges**

Water will be sprinkled over the faithful congregation three times as a reminder of its baptised identity.

Always remember you are baptised, and give thanks to God with joy!

Today we remember that, from the time of our baptism, the sign of the cross has been upon us. I invite you now to trace that sign upon the forehead of your neighbour, saying:

**You belong to Christ. Alleluia!**

to which the response is:

**I belong to Christ. Alleluia!**

You are invited to offer the sign of the cross to the people on either side of you.

**Hymn** 489 *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more*

### The Prayers of the Baptised

Those who are able may kneel during the following prayers as an expression of our dependence on God.

1. *Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son,*  
 2. *Chris - te e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son,*  
 3. *Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son,*

1. *Ky-ri - e e - lei - son.*  
 2. *Chris - te e - lei - son.*  
 3. *Ky-ri - e e - lei - son.*

(Lord, have compassion. Christ, have compassion. Lord, have compassion.)

Holy Mary, God-bearer:

John the Baptist:

Mary of Magdala:

Peter & Paul:

Columba of Iona:

Hildegard of Bingen:

Francis & Clare of Assisi:

Martin Luther & Jean Calvin:

**Pray with us.**

Thomas Goodwin & John Owen:

Susannah, John & Charles Wesley:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

Martin Luther King:

Dorothy Day:

Oscar Romero:

Mary McKillop

Athol Gill:

**Pray with us.**

Lord, be merciful.

From all evil;

From every sin;

From everlasting death;

By your coming as a human being;

By your death and rising to new life;

By the gift of the Holy Spirit;

Be merciful to us sinners;

Bless and keep us in your baptism;

Jesus, child of the Living One;

Christ, hear us.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

**Lord, save your people.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Christ, hear us.**

**Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all the baptised everywhere and for ourselves in this congregation of God's people: that our redemption from evil and our rescue from the way of sin and death may be evident in our daily living:

Jesus Christ, son of God, **have mercy upon us.**

That the Holy Spirit may continue to open our hearts and lives to the grace and truth we find in Jesus our Lord:

Jesus Christ, son of God, **have mercy upon us.**

That we may be kept in the faith and communion of the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church:

Jesus Christ, son of God, **have mercy upon us.**

That we may gladly go into the world as witnesses to the love of Christ:

Jesus Christ, son of God, **have mercy upon us.**

That we may be brought to the fullness of God's peace and glory:

Jesus Christ, son of God, **have mercy upon us.**

Let us lift up to God the names of all those we carry in our hearts, from around our world, from around our nation, and among our loved ones, for whom we would especially seek God's care:

An opportunity to name out loud, in a spirit of prayer, those for whom we especially seek God's presence and blessing. Your prayers may be offered in any language and all at once.

Hear our prayers, tender God, and accept them in the spirit of the prayer your Son taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

We stand to sing the doxology:



## THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We come to the table where Christ shares his life in the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from the four corners of the earth and sit at table in the kingdom of God. This is the table where our risen Lord opens our eyes to his presence in all the things of earth. He touches us, heals us, and calls us by name so that we need no longer cling to our pain, but may go forth with power to release resurrection in the world. Whosoever will, may come, so let us prepare the Lord's table, offering the gifts that we are and the gifts that we bring.

### The Peace

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. In the one Spirit you baptised us all into one body and called us to live in the peace won for us, in Christ, this night.

**Though we are a company of strangers,  
in approaching this table,  
we bind ourselves to one another  
to live in love and peace from this day forth.**

Have peace with one another.

**The peace of the Lord.**

Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

We affirm our unity and peace with one another by exchanging handshakes with a few people near us and blessing them with words such as, "Christ's peace be with you."

**Hymn**            543 *God's paschal lamb is sacrificed for us*

During the singing of the hymn, the cloths and vessels are laid on the table. The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the table.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.

***It will become for us the bread of life.***

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
From you flows the river of the water of life,  
and through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

***It will become for us our spiritual drink.***

### **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Christ is risen!

***He is risen indeed!***

We are the body of Christ.

***His Spirit is with us.***

Let us lift up our hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***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 Great Mystery, the almighty Creator, and God's only Child,

our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin.

This is our Passover feast, for Christ, the true lamb, is slain and his blood consecrates the homes of your people. This is the night when first you saved our forebears: freeing the people of Israel from their slavery and leading them dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when your pillar of fire pierced the darkness of our sin.

This is the night when Christians everywhere—washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement—are restored to grace and renewed together in healing and wholeness.

This is the night when your Son, Jesus Christ, broke the chains of oppression and death and rose triumphant from the grave. What good would life have been to us, had you not sent Christ as our Redeemer?

Loving Lord, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, that gained for us so compassionate a Redeemer!

O most blessed of all nights, chosen to see Christ rising from the dead! Of this night, you said:

"The night will be as clear as day:  
it will become my light, my joy."

On this night your resurrection power dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, humbles earthly pride, and inaugurates your reign of peace with justice.

This night is truly the most joyous of all, for on this night heaven is wedded to earth and humankind is reconciled with you, O God, the Beginning and End of all our longing!

Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky,

**We sing to you.**

With the angels and archangels who envelop us,  
with all the saints before us and beside us,  
with brothers and sisters, east and west, north and south,

**We sing to you.**

And with our loved ones, separate from us now,  
who yet, in this mystery are close to us,

**we sing the hymn of unending praise :**

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord!

Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord!

This system consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

God of truth and light!

God of truth and light!

This system consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry;

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo ry;

This system consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Repeat

This system consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The system ends with a repeat sign.

Bless - ed is the one who  
Bless - ed is the name\_\_\_\_\_

comes in the name of the Lord.  
of the Lord\_\_\_\_\_

Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Ho - san - na in the

Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
high - est!

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our grief, and is known again in the breaking of bread; who, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

**“This is my body, which is for you.**

**Do this to remember me.”**

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying:

**“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.**

**Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.”**

So, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is ri - sen.  
Christ will come a - gain. Repeat

Therefore, here in this place, we celebrate the life that death could not hold, the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now.

Made one with him, and thus one with each other, we lay before you these gifts of bread and wine, in token of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, for here we offer and present to you ourselves, our bodies, minds and spirits, to be a holy and continuous sacrifice to you.

Everyone is invited to raise their hands towards the elements on the table as a sign of their participation in the priestly act of calling upon the Holy Spirit to unite bread, wine and congregation into the bodily presence of Christ.

Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, come -  
Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, come -

Come and bring forth the life of Christ in this bread and this wine, making them true food and true drink for our deepest hunger and hope.

***Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.***

As bread is broken and wine poured, open our eyes to the risen Christ in the stranger and set our hearts on fire for justice and peace.

***Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.***

By the power which raised Christ from the dead, raise us, your fragmented people, and gather us into one loaf and one cup, that, sharing in Christ's body and blood, we too might be broken and poured out for the life of the world.

Glo - ry be to you, O God, —  
 ✠ Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Spi - rit  
 — one God and Mo - ther of all cre - a - tion —  
 as in the be - gin - ning, so now, and for e - ver.  
 A - - men! A - - men!

### The Breaking of the Bread

Look, Christ is risen to feed his hungry people.  
***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Look, Christ is risen, new wine for thirsty hearts.

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Holy things for holy people.

***Alleluia! Let us keep the feast!***

On - ly one is ho - ly, Je - sus Christ. —  
 In him, and him a - lone,  
 all things are made ho - ly,  
 to the glo - ry and praise of God; —  
 to the glo - ry and praise of God!  
 to the praise of God!

### The Communion

Let us receive what we are.  
 Let us become what we receive.  
***The body of Christ.***

We serve one another. The bread will be handed to you by the person next to you. Break off a piece for yourself and then hand the remainder of the loaf to the next person, saying "The body of Christ." You may then prayerfully eat your piece. If you do not wish to offer yourself to Christ and his people in communion, you may allow the bread to pass you by.

Please note strong wine or pure water are available. A few early Christian communities served only water at communion, evoking images of Jesus' invitation to

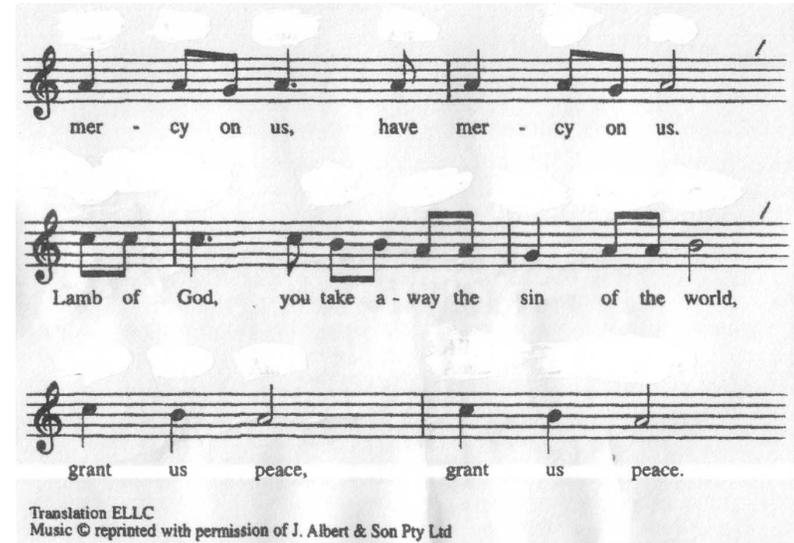
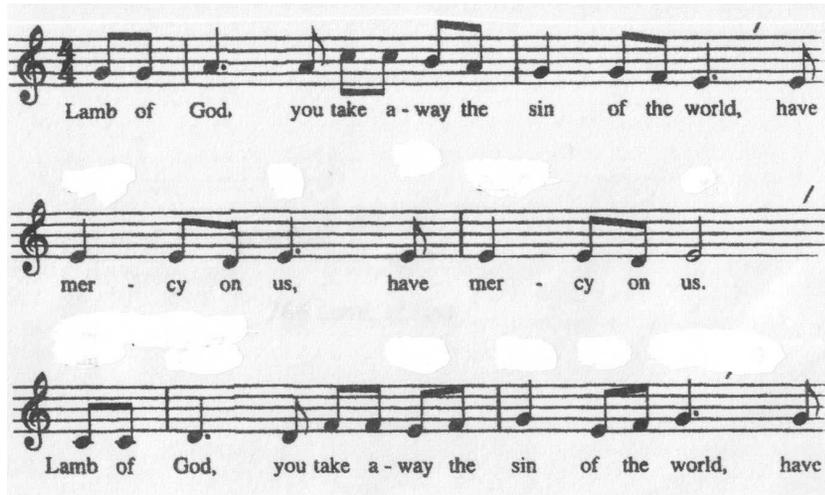
come to him and drink from springs of living water (John 7:37-38, Revelation 21:6; 22:17) and his sign of turning water into wine (John 2:1-11).

Jesus—the wellspring of life—invites all who are thirsty to come to him. Come, receive freely. Let us raise our glasses as one and taste the first fruits of the coming joy.

Please come and take a glass from the table and step back into the circle until everyone has one.

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life,  
**Until he comes.**

We drink together.



### THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. We have recalled your mighty acts in history. We have seen your power in sending light to conquer darkness; water to give us life; and the bread of heaven to nourish us in love.

Send us with your salvation and joy to all the world,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Song**                    **Resurrection Song** by John Michael Talbot

**Take up your cross and follow the way  
The way of Jesus Christ  
His yoke is easy, his burden light.  
Our resurrection song.**

1. Any who seek to follow me  
Must deny their very selves  
Take up their own cross everyday  
And follow in my steps.
  
2. All those who seek to gain the world  
Will lose their souls instead  
Be not ashamed of the Son of Man  
And he'll raise you from the dead.

As we go out into the world, let us make it our first work to love.  
Let us bear witness in our words and our lives that the Reign of God  
has come.

God encircle us        ***with fire of the Spirit;***  
God encircle us        ***with waters of birth;***  
God encircle us        ***with saints and apostles;***  
God encircle us        ***and keep us in love.***

### **Blessing**

The blessing of God be upon you – the Father, the Son and the Holy  
Spirit.

The night of salvation is upon us. The powers are vanquished and the  
world is made new. So go now to your rest in the peace which  
surpasses all understanding, and may you wake on the morn to angels  
singing.

***Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed! Amen.***

The service may continue with a simple breakfast of bread, fish and wine.

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This liturgy was written by Garry J. Deverell. If you wish to use it in some way,  
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