A Service of Eucharist

for Easter Sunday

**Introduction**

This service combines the traditional celebration of the Eucharist on Easter Sunday with elements of the Easter Vigil, usually kept on the night before. As such, the service does not begin with the usual gathering, but instead in near darkness. The Easter Vigil marks the end of the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and leads into the celebration of Christ’s resurrection. The singing of the Exsultet, the ancient hymn of triumph and rejoicing, links this night of our Christian redemption to the Passover night of Israel’s redemption out of Egypt.

The end of the Vigil is signified by the transformation of darkness into light, from the source of the Paschal Candle, and the Easter acclamation “Alleluia, Christ is risen!”

*The service begins in darkness*

Christ yesterday and today,

*All*   **the beginning and the end,**

Alpha and Omega,

all time belongs to him,

and all ages;

*All*   **to him be glory and power,**

**through every age and for ever. Amen**.

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

*A minister lights the Easter Candle, saying*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*The minister carrying the Candle raises it and says or sings*

The light of Christ.

*All*   **Thanks be to God.**

*The Easter Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the building.*

**The Exsultet**

*The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) may be sung or said by a minister standing near the Candle.*

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

O Universe, dance around God’s throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,

radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!

Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!

Let all God’s people sing and shout for joy.

It is right and good that with 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 the price of Adam’s sin,

and reconciled us once again to you.

For this is the Passover feast,

when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain

whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

This is the day when you first saved our ancestors,

freeing Israel from her slavery

and leading her safely through the sea.

This is the day when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,

broke the chains of death

and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the day when all who believe in him are freed from sin,

restored to grace and holiness,

and share the victory of Christ.

This is the day that gave us back what we had lost;

beyond our deepest dreams

you made even our sin a happy fault.

Crowning glory of all feasts!

Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,

lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Feast truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,

peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth

and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy

accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church’s solemn offering.

Grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;

Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!

Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!

Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

Amen.

**The Easter Acclamation**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All   **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

All   **Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

**The Collect**

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

*Silence is kept.*

God of glory,

by the raising of your Son

you have broken the chains of death and hell:

fill your Church with faith and hope;

for a new day has dawned

and the way to life stands open

in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All   **Amen.**

**New Testament Reading**

Romans 6.3-11

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

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We 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. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

All   **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading**

**Acclamation**

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

All   **Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death.

All   **Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

All   **Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life.

All   **Alleluia.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All   **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he\* lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead,\* and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All   **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**The Liturgy of Initiation**

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

**Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

*All* **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

*All*  **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

*All* **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

*All* **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

*All* **I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

*All* **I come to Christ.**

May almighty God who has given you the desire to follow Christ

give you the strength to continue in the way.

**Profession of Faith**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

*All* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

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

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

*All* **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.**

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith

with all who have been baptized in your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism,

and so make us ready for that day

when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,

that you may be rooted and grounded in love

and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**The Peace**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples

and said, ‘Peace be with you.’

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All*  **And also with you**

*Please share signs of peace with those around you*

**The Preparation of the Table**

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

we believe you, and all we have heard is true.

When you break bread

may we recognize you as the fire that burns within us,

that we may bring light to your world.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you

*All*  **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

*All*  **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

*All*  **It is right to give thanks and praise**

And now we give you thanks

because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned,

the long reign of sin is ended,

a broken world is being renewed

and humanity is once again made whole.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,

we echo the song of the angels in heaven,

evermore praising you and saying:

*All*   **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,

through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,

and as we follow his example and obey his command,

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit

these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper

he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,

we remember his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross;

we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;

we look for the coming of your kingdom,

and with this bread and this cup

we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All*  **Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,

this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,

and as we eat and drink these holy gifts

in the presence of your divine majesty,

renew us by your Spirit,

inspire us with your love

and unite us in the body of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,

we worship you, Father almighty,

in songs of everlasting praise:

*All*   **Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Rejoicing in God’s new creation

As our Saviour taught us we are bold to say:

*All* **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.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and forever.**

**Amen**

**Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

**Agnus Dei**

*All*  **Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,**

**grant us peace.**

**Giving of Communion**

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

*All*   **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*The president and people receive communion. For those unable to receive bread and wine, this prayer of spiritual communion may be used*

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

**Prayer after Communion**

*A period of silence may be kept.*

*All* **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

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 with you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

He is not here. He is risen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.**