

The Easter Vigil and Service of Light 2020

MagorMinistry Area
Becoming the people
God calls us to be

The Priest introduces the service and leads the opening prayer. Then:

First Reading - Creation

A reading from the book of Genesis (1:1 – 2:4a)

Psalm 136: 1-9; 23-26

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious:
for his mercy endures forever.**

**Give thanks to the God of gods:
for his mercy endures forever.**

**Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
for his mercy endures forever;**

**Who alone does great wonder:
for his mercy endures forever;**

**Who by wisdom made the heavens:
for his mercy endures forever;**

**Who laid out the earth upon the waters:
for his mercy endures forever;**

**Who made the great lights:
for his mercy endures forever;**

**The sun to rule the day:
for his mercy endures forever;**

**The moon and the stars to govern the night:
for his mercy endures forever;**

**Who remembered us when we were in trouble:
for his mercy endures forever;**

**And delivered us from our enemies:
for his mercy endures forever;**

**Who gives food to all creatures:
for his mercy endures forever.**

**Give thanks to the God of heaven:
for his mercy endures forever.**

Prayer

Let us pray.

(Silence)

Almighty and eternal God
you created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image.

Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Second Reading - Abraham and Isaac

A reading from the book of Genesis (22.1-18)

Psalm 16

**Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge:
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,
all my good depends on you.'**

**All my delight is upon the godly that are in the
land:
upon those who are noble in heart.**

**Though the idols are legion that many run after:
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon
my lips.**

**The Lord himself is my portion and my cup:
in your hands alone is my fortune.**

**My share has fallen in a fair land:
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

**I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.**

**I have set the Lord always before me:
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.**

**Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:
my flesh also shall rest secure.**

**For you will not abandon my soul to Death:
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.**

**You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy:
and in your right hand are pleasures for
evermore.**

Prayer

Let us pray.

(Silence)

God and Father of all believers
multiply by your grace the number of your
faithful children,
that your church may rejoice to see the
fulfilment
of your promise to our Father Abraham
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Third Reading - The Exodus

A reading from the book of Exodus (*14:10-31; 15:20-21*)

Canticle: The Song of Miriam: 'I will sing to the Lord'

**I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed
gloriously:
the horse and his rider he has thrown in to the sea.**

**The Lord is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.**

**This is my God, whom I will praise:
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.**

**The Lord is a warrior:
the Lord is his name.**

**Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power:
your right hand, O Lord shatters the enemy.**

**At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them:
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.**

**In your unfailing love, O Lord:
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.**

**And by your invincible strength:
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.**

**You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord:
in the sanctuary which your hands have
established.**

Prayer

Let us pray.

(Silence)

Almighty God,
who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses to rescue them
from slavery.
In baptism you freed us from the tyranny of sin
and death;
by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our
heavenly home,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Fourth Reading - Dry bones shall live

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel *(37: 1-14)*

Psalm 143

**Hear my prayer, O Lord:
and in your faithfulness give ear to my
supplications;
answer me in your righteousness.**

**Enter not into judgement with your servant:
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.**

**For the enemy has pursued me,
 crushing my life to the ground:
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.**

**My spirit faints within me:
My heart within me is desolate.**

**I remember the time past; I muse upon all your
deeds:
I consider the works of your hands.**

**I stretch out my hands to you:
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.**

**O Lord, make haste to answer me;
My spirit fails me:
 hide not your face from me
lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.**

Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for in you I put my trust: show me the way I should walk in, for I lift up my soul to you.

Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies: for I flee to you for refuge.

Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God: let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.

Revive me, O Lord for your name's sake: for your righteousness' sake bring me out of trouble.

In your faithfulness, slay my enemies, and destroy all the adversaries of my soul: for truly I am your servant.

Prayer

Let us pray.

(Silence)

Almighty God,
who gives life to your people
breathe your Spirit upon the Church
that she may proclaim confidently the
resurrection of your Son,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Marking of the Candle

The Easter Candle is marked, tracing over the symbols on the candle and the Incense grains inserted.

Lighting of Candle

The priest lights the Easter candle from the new fire, saying:

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

The deacon bearing the candle raises it and says or sings:

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet is sung

There are some responses during the Exsultet, please do join in with singing/saying them.

The Deacon sings the introduction:

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.

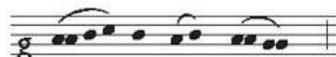
Then (please say or sing the responses):



The Lord be with you.



R. and al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



R. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



R. It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Deacon continues alone:

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 night when you first saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery and leading her safely through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

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.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams
you made even our sin a happy fault.

Most blessed of all nights!
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed
away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned
to joy.

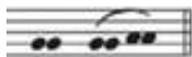
Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined
to earth and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn
offering,

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!



A - men.

The Easter Acclamation

The priest says:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria in Excelsis is said, during which the lights are turned on..

**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.

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.

New Testament Reading

Romans 6: 3-11

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according

to St Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 28: 1-10

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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. **Alleluia.**

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you **and also with you. Alleluia.**

The Dismissal

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Priest gives the blessing.

With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.