



ST MARY'S
ATTLEBOROUGH

The Easter Liturgy Saturday 16th April 2022

The Great Vigil of Easter is the climax of the Christian Year. It is the Christian Passover, celebrating the passing from death to life, from sin to grace. Since earliest times Christians have gathered through the night of Easter to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, the Easter Liturgy is not merely a presentation of God's work. It is meant to be a real experience of new life for the worshipper, a passing from darkness to light which offers hope to all the faithful.

¶ THE LITURGY OF LIGHT

The President says:

Dear brothers and sisters 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. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

The fire is lit and we sing the hymn:

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

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The fire is blessed.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: make this new fire holy, set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The thurible is prepared.

The markings on the Easter candle may be traced while the following is said.

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

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

The Easter candle is lit and a procession follows to the church door.

The candle is raised and the following may be sung.

The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

The procession moves further into the building.

The candle is raised and the following may be sung.

The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God

The servers' candles are lit, and the procession moves further into the building.

The candle is raised and the following may be sung.

The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Congregation's candles are lit. The Easter candle is placed on its stand and the congregation gather round with their lighted candles.

The Easter proclamation is sung by the Priest, Deacon or Cantor.

During the proclamation the following is sung:

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.

At the end we sing: **Amen.**

¶ 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. Let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

We sit.

The First Reading

Genesis 1:26-31

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 104

R. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You are clothed with majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as in a garment. **R.**

You spread out the heavens like a curtain
and lay the beams of your dwelling place in the waters above.

You make the clouds your chariot
and ride on the wings of the wind. **R.**

You send the springs into the brooks,
which run among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field,
and the wild asses quench their thirst.

Beside them the birds of the air make their nests
and sing among the branches. **R.**

You water the hills from your dwelling on high;
the earth is filled with the fruit of your works.
You make grass to grow for the cattle
and plants to meet our needs. **R.**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.
So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed out of the earth
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. **R.**

The Second Reading

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-10, 15-18

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.'

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 16

R. In your presence, O Lord, is the fullness of joy.

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. **R.**

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. **R.**

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. **R.**

The Third Reading

Exodus 14:15 - 15:1

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

The Responsorial Canticle follows immediately.

Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18

R. I will sing, I will sing to the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously.

I will sing to the Lord,
for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my might,
and he has become my salvation; **R.**

This is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a warrior;
the Lord is his name. **R.**

Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.
The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power –
your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. **R.**

You brought them in and planted them
on the mountain of your own possession,
the place, O Lord, that you made your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord,
that your hands have established.
The Lord will reign for ever and ever. **R.**

The Fourth Reading

Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom! Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a foreign country, that you are defiled with the dead, that you are counted among those in Hades? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. If you had walked in the way of God, you would be living in peace for ever. Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace. Who has found her place? And who has entered her storehouses?

But the one who knows all things knows her; he found her by his understanding. The one who prepared the earth for all time filled it with four-footed creatures; the one who sends forth the light, and it goes; he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling; the stars shone in their watches, and were glad; he called them, and they said, 'Here we are!' They shone with gladness for him who made them. This is our God; no other can be compared to him. He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. Afterwards she appeared on earth and lived with humankind.

She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk towards the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people. Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 19

R. The heavens are telling the glory of God.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes. **R.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether. **R.**

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter also than honey,
dripping from the honeycomb. **R.**

We stand for the Easter Acclamation.

The following is repeated three times.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The lights are turned on and candles lit while a fanfare is played on the organ. Then the Gloria is sung by the choir to a setting by Mozart - Missa Brevis in C "Spatzenmesse"

The Collect

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.**

The Congregation extinguish their candles and sit down.

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing the gradual hymn:

1. Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

3. Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)**

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Turn to face where the Gospel is read in the centre of the Church.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Choir: I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24.1-12

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Please sit after the short prayer

The choir sings the anthems. *Sicut cervus* (Palestrina)

Stand to sing the hymn, during which the congregation goes to the font and candles are re-lit.

1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia.

2. Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia.

3. Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia.

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¶ THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM

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, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church.

Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask these questions:

Do you turn to Christ?

All: I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

All: I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

All: I renounce evil.

The Priest may bless water for baptism or as a reminder of our baptism.

The people reaffirm their faith. If there are candidates for baptism, they join in making the 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.**

The people are sprinkled with water from the font, then this prayer is said.

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with those 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. **Amen**

We return to our seats as we continue the hymn from before the liturgy of Baptism:

4. Jesus lives! our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia.

5. Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia.

*Jesus lebt! mit ihm auch ich
Christian Fürchtegott Gellert (1715–1769)
translated by Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812–1897)*
Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 207*

The Congregation extinguish their candles and sit, or kneel, for the Intercessions.

Father, we praise you for the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ from the dead. Shed his glorious light on all Christian people that we may live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for those who at this season are receiving in baptism your Son's new life by water and the Spirit...

Dying with Christ, may they know the power of his resurrection.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all whom we know and love, both near and far...

May their eyes be opened to see the glory of the risen Lord.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for those who suffer pain and anguish...

Grant them the faith to reach out towards the healing wounds of Christ and be filled with his peace.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

We remember before you those who have died in the hope of resurrection...

Unite us with them in your undying love.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Join our voices, we pray, Lord our God, to the songs of all your saints in proclaiming that you give us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Stand for the Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among the disciples and said, "Peace be with you!" Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The Peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you. Alleluia!

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

A hymn is sung during which the offerings of the people are collected and the gifts brought to the altar.

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia,
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia,
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia,
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia.
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia,
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia,
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia,
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia.
3. But the pains that he endured Alleluia,
our salvation have procured; Alleluia,
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia,
where the angels ever sing Alleluia.

*Lyra Davidica, 1708
and others*

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The following prayer over the gifts may be used.

Lord accept the prayers and offerings of your people. With your help may this Easter mystery of our redemption bring to perfection the saving work you have begun in us. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president praises God for his mighty acts; and the choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus

The president recalls the Last Supper, and this acclamation is used:

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the Doxology. At the end all sing:
Amen.

We sit or kneel to say the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The choir sings the Agnus Dei before the President gives the invitation to Communion:

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

If you normally receive Communion in any Church you are welcome to receive at this service; come forward to the step now. If you do not receive, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Carry this booklet, or bow your head, to indicate that you would prefer a blessing.

During Communion the choir sings the anthem: Hallelujah! Chorus (Handel)

After a moment for quiet prayer the Post Communion Prayers are said.

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy. **Amen**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Stand to sing the hymn:

1. Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*
2. Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:
3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

A toi la gloire, O Ressuscité; Edmond Budry (1854–1932)

translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875–1939)

Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 218

The Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Organ Voluntary: Toccata from Symphony No 5. *Widor*

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CCL 424197