

Holy Week and Easter at All Saints



The Easter Liturgy

The Easter Liturgy

Introduction to the Easter Liturgy

The Easter Liturgy consists of four main parts.

The Vigil Here we keep watch and wait, meditating on the mighty acts of God in the Scriptures. In ancient times the vigil might have lasted all through the night. Our service begins with the congregation in the dimly lit chancel, with some Old Testament lessons in the period just before dawn.

The Service of Light We proclaim the resurrection in spoken word and dramatic ceremony. The Easter Candle is lit from a new fire at the West Door, and brought into the chancel, together with an icon of the resurrected Jesus. All the candles are lit and the chancel is filled with light. The Exsultet, an ancient hymn of praise, leads us into the reading of the Easter Gospel and the shout of the Resurrection acclamation.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows In the early centuries new Christians were baptized at Easter. At this service we each renew the commitment of our Baptism to complete our Lenten preparation and affirm our union with Christ in his death and resurrection.

First Eucharist of Easter Having waited, watched, greeted the Risen Lord and renewed our baptismal commitment we now are sacramentally reunited with him. This first Holy Communion of Easter is a precious gift to us.

The Vigil

The congregation is seated in the chancel, for the Vigil readings. These can be found in a separate booklet.

The Service of Light

Blessing of the fire

The new fire is lit outside the West Door, and the President uses the following words in blessing.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light,
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.

Blessing of the candle

The Easter candle is lit from the fire and blessed by the President.

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.

The candle is carried to the Chancel. The President uses the following words:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Exsultet is sung and all the Chancel candles lit. The Resurrection gospel is then read – please stand

Gospel 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.’

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn Light's Glittering Morning

1 Light's glittering morning fills the sky,
heaven thunders out its victor cry;
Alleluia, alleluia!

earth shouts her Easter triumph high,
and groaning hell makes wild reply.

*Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2 For Christ the Lord, the mighty king,
closes with death and draws its sting;
Alleluia, alleluia!

he tramples down the powers of night,
brings out his ransomed saints to light:

3 His rocky tomb the threefold guard
of watch and stone and seal had barred,
Alleluia, alleluia!

but now in royal triumph high
he comes from death to victory!

4 Hell's gates are broken down at last,
our days of mourning now are past;
Alleluia, alleluia!

'Weep not,' an angel voice has said,
'Jesus is risen from the dead!'

5 All praise be yours, O risen Lord,
from death to endless life restored;
Alleluia, alleluia!

to Father, Son and Spirit be
all power and praise eternally!

Jubilate Hymns version of Aurora lucis rutilat translated by John Mason Neale (1818 - 1866)
Music: Lasst Uns Erfreuen, Melody from an Easter hymn in Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne, 1623,
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
(Ancient & Modern – 208)

Collect for Easter Day

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.**

Thanksgiving for the resurrection

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious:
and his mercy endures for ever.
He has loved us from all eternity:
for his mercy endures for ever.
And remembered us when we were in trouble:
for his mercy endures for ever.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
for his mercy endures for ever.
He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man:
for his mercy endures for ever.
By his cross and passion he has redeemed the world:
for his mercy endures for ever.
And has washed us from our sins in his own blood:
for his mercy endures for ever.
On the third day he rose again:
for his mercy endures for ever.
And has given us the victory:
for his mercy endures for ever.
He ascended into heaven:
for his mercy endures for ever.

And opened wide for us the everlasting doors:

for his mercy endures for ever.

He is seated at the right hand of the Father:

for his mercy endures for ever.

And ever lives to make intercession for us:

for his mercy endures for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

We sing:

**1. Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love him well;
on the earth let all his people
speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.**

**2. Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated –
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three-in-One!**

Words: © Michael Perry (1942-1996)

Music: Ode to Joy, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The water of baptism is blessed.

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever.

Amen.

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?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

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

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

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

I come to Christ.

The congregation is sprinkled with the baptismal waters.

The Eucharist

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.

And also with you

Hymn Love's redeeming work is done

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?

**Blessed is the holy one,
in the Lord's name he has come;
Sing hosanna in the height:
to the God of power and might**

*Music: BUCKLAND, Leighton George Hayne (1836-1883)
(Ancient and Modern 724)*

*The bread and the wine are blessed and the words of Jesus at the last
Supper are used ending with*

.....Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The prayer continues ending with

.....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:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power,
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Giving of Communion

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

Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away
all our sins, our debts to pay;
by your glorious love outpoured
grant us mercy now, O Lord.**

**Lamb of God, you take away
all our sins, our debts to pay;
may your blessings never cease,
in forgiveness grant us peace.**

*Music: BUCKLAND, Leighton George Hayne (1836-1883)
(Ancient and Modern 724)*

Prayer after Communion

God of Life,
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn Thine be the glory!

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 vict'ry, 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:

*Words: A toi la gloire, O Ressuscité, Edmond Budry (1854-1932),
translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)*

Music: Maccabaeus, George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) (Ancient & Modern – 218)

The Blessing and dismissal

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen

Common Worship and New Patterns of Worship, material from which is included in these services, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2005. The Scriptures quotations contained herein are the New Revised Standard Version ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights Reserved. All Saints Church is a member of the CCL scheme, no.245730, and of OneLicense, no.740714