

The Service of Light

The building being in darkness, all assemble in silence at the main entrance. The Easter Candle is unlit.

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 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.

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.**

The president lights a new candle

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The minister having lit the candle reads;

First Reading Genesis 1: 1-4

The minister bearing the candle raises it and says;

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Titus 4: 4-7 (At the font)

The minister bearing the candle raises it and says;

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Third Reading Isaiah 55: 10-11 (At the lectern)

The minister bearing the candle raises it and says;

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Other candles are lit at this point

The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise)

(Sung to the tune of 'Abide with me'.)

Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Around God's throne exult in harmony!
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Salute your King in glorious symphony!

Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past, the day of life is here!

Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!
Your Saviour lives; he's with you evermore!
Let all God's people sound the long Amen!

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.

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.

Glory to you for ever.

For this is the Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

Glory to you for ever.

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

Glory to you for ever.

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

Glory to you for ever.

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.

Glory to you for ever.

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

Glory to you for ever.

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.

Glory to you for ever.

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.

Glory to you for ever.

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

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.

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.

Amen.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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