St Matthew in-the-City

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

APRIL

20

2019

This service brings us from the darkness of Good Friday
to the joy of resurrection.

We hear the stories of Genesis and Exodus
when God brought light out of darkness and led the people of
Israel through the desert by fire.

We light the new fire of Easter
and from there light the Paschal Candle.

On the candle are painted
the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, alpha and omega.

In Revelation 21:6 the exalted Christ says
"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

We make a cross on the candle with "nails".

We then process the candle into the darkened church
which represents the tomb, and light the candles inside.

The light heralds the resurrection of Christ.

We affirm our faith and remember our baptism
following the tradition of the early church where the new converts,
the catechumens, were baptised at dawn on Easter Day.

The Paschal Candle stays lit for all services
during the fifty days of the Easter season
and is removed on Ascension Day.

We use it then for baptisms and funerals
as a link back to the Easter resurrection of Jesus.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

We gather outside.

Dear friends in Christ,
on this most holy night when the gospels tells us
Jesus passed over from death to life,
we gather with all the Church throughout the world
in vigil and prayer.
This is the passover of Jesus Christ.
Through light and word, through water, bread and wine
we celebrate the new life that Christ shares with us.

We light the fire.

Redeeming God, source of life and light, bless this new fire,
and grant that we who are warmed
by the celebration of this Easter feast,
may share in the everlasting festival of your radiance,
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
Amen.

The Paschal candle is marked and blessed.

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 guard and keep us.
Amen.

The Paschal Candle is lit.

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

The Easter candle is carried in procession into the church, and each time the procession stops:

Cantor: Christ our light.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation move into the pews lighting their candles; the church remains in darkness.

THE EXSULTET

arranged by Douglas Mews (1918-1993)

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now,
all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendour,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.
Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.
All you who stand near this marvellous and holy flame
pray with me to God the Almighty
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light.

Cantor: God's peace be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

Cantor: Let us give thanks to God.
All: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The Exsultet continues.

Fellow pilgrims on the Christian way,
let us now listen to the story
of how God saved the people of Israel
by mighty acts in their history, and in the fullness of time
came among us in Christ Jesus as our Redeemer.

READING

Genesis 1:1-8

Creation

PSALM 136:1-9, 23-26

Chant: Charles Harford Lloyd (1849-1919)

Father God, Mother God, by the energy of creative love
you have brought all things into being,
continually creating and restoring us,
making us in your image.
We contemplate your creation:
the darkness of this night, the light of the dawn,
our birth in the waters,
our life sustained and transformed by you.
Mother God, Father God, we rest in your presence.
Amen. [1]

READING

Exodus 14:21-31, 15:20-21

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

SONG OF MOSES

Setting: Robert Loretz

God of steadfast love, you delivered your chosen people
from slavery under Pharaoh,
open our eyes to see those still enslaved in our time
and to help them come to freedom
that the world might also be free.
Amen.

---

[1] *Jim Cotter, "Darkness Yielding"*

READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The valley of dry bones

SONG OF ISAIAH

Setting: Robert Loretz

Living God, by the Passover of your Son
you have brought us out of death into life;
bring new life to the dry bones of our world
and those we love.
Amen.

READING

Romans 6:3-11

God unlimited by mortal fear
or tomb's cold grip:
in the lingering dark
give us grace to know
your life triumphant,
your love undimmed
in the face of Jesus Christ,
the firstborn from the dead.
Amen. [2]

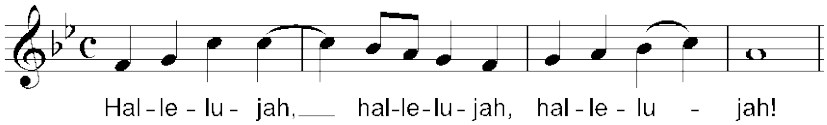
---

[2] *Steven Shakespeare*

Please stand.

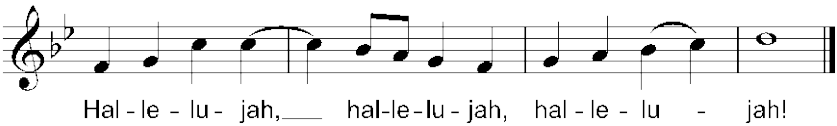
THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Luke,
chapter twenty-four, beginning at verse one.



Luke 24:1-12

This is the Gospel of Christ.



Alleluia Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed, alleluia.

HYMN

Candles are lit on the altar and the lights are turned on.

The Day of Resurrection! earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth her song begin!
The round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

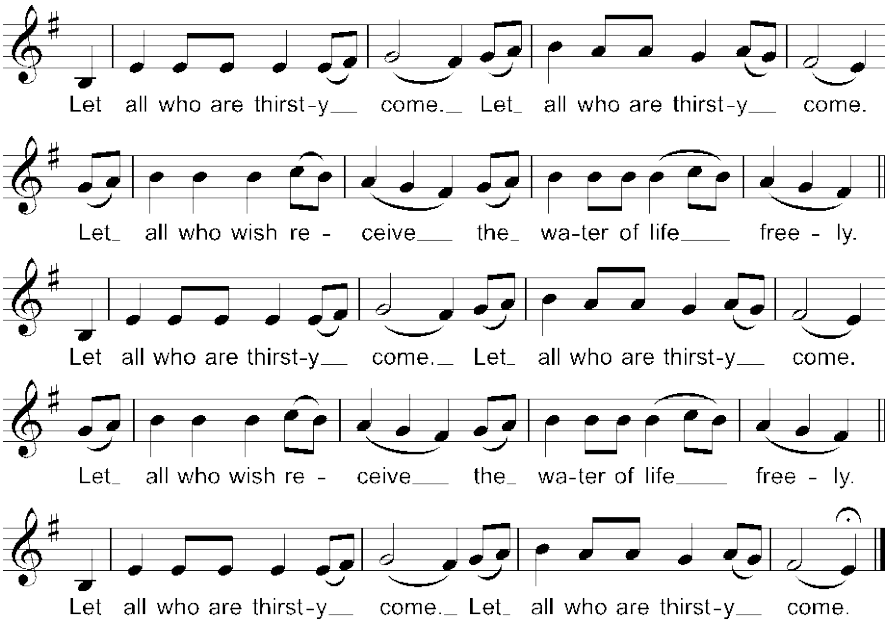
Words: John of Damascus (c. 675-749); trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
Tune: Ellacombe (1), melody from 'Mainz Gesangbuch', 1833. TiS 361

RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISM

Through the paschal mystery
we have been buried with Christ in baptism,
so that we may rise with him to new life.

As we descend into the baptismal pool
we remember the parting of the Red Sea
which brought the people to freedom;
the baptism of Jesus in the waters of the Jordan;
and our own baptism in water from the river…

Those who wish to are invited to walk through the baptismal pool.



3

[3] *Taizé*

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
I will, with God's help.

Will you forgive others as you are forgiven?
I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to love your neighbour as yourself,
and strive for peace and justice?
I will, with God's help.

Will you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ
in your daily life and work?
I will, with God's help.

With the whole church will you proclaim by word and action
the Good News of God in Christ?
I will, with God's help.

The clergy asperge (sprinkle water) on the congregation saying.

From death to life, we have been baptised in Christ.

THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you all.
In God's justice is our peace.

E te whanau, Christ calls us to live in unity.
We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

HYMN

**Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness!
God hath brought his Israel
into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.**

**'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun hath risen.
All the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.**

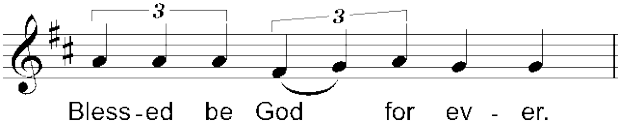
**Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.**

**Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal,
hold thee as a mortal.
But today amidst the Twelve
thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore
passeth human knowing.**

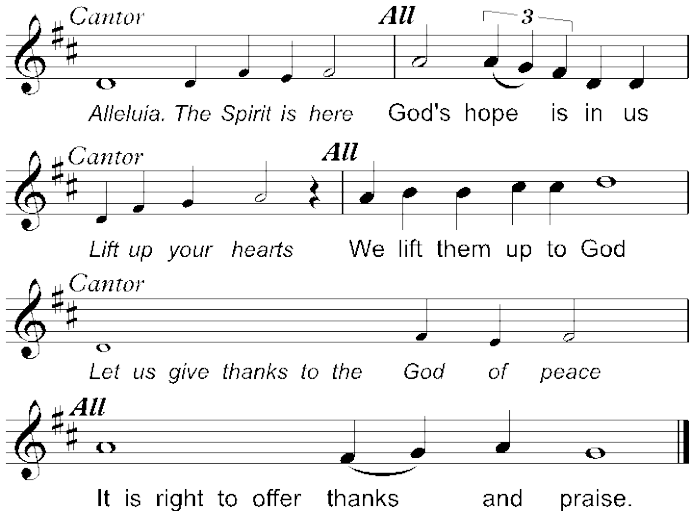
Words: John of Damascus (c. 675-749); trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
Tune: Ave Virgo Virginum. WOV 278

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.

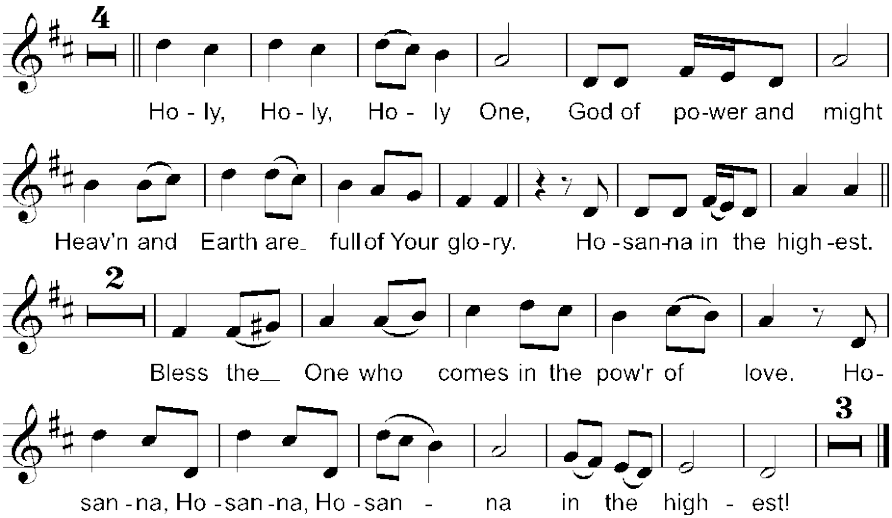


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is right and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
God our Creator and Lover.
You make all things and call them good.
You love us into being, you form us in your image
and breathe into us the breath of life.
When we turn away, and our love fails,
your love remains steadfast.
You deliver us from captivity,
and bring us to a land flowing with milk and honey.
You set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:

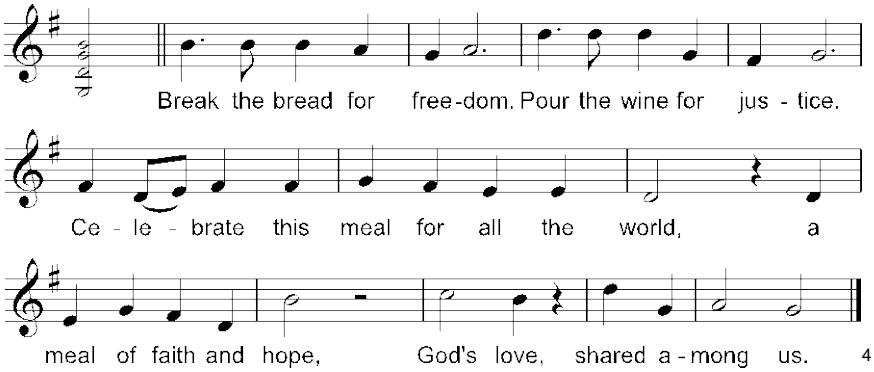


Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By his baptism of suffering and death
you give your church birth into a living hope.
Raising Jesus from the dead, you make a new covenant with us,
by water and the Spirit, and deliver us into freedom.
We who were no people are now your people,
declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,
who calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

On the night when he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat: this is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

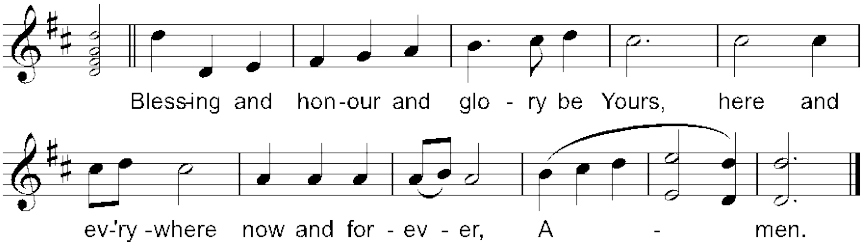
When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said,
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new Covenant,
which is shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me

On the third day you raised him from the dead
and revealed him to the women
who came to the tomb to care for his body.
On that day he was recognized by his disciples
in the breaking of bread.



And so, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
and we praise you and we bless you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in loving service to all the world,
until all feast at your heavenly banquet. [5]



Please be seated.

---

[4] *Words by Jenny Blood*
[5] *Richard Fabian, St Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice
be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen. [6]

BREAKING OF BREAD

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

We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.

---

[6] *NZPB, p. 181*

THE INVITATION

Haere mai e te kahui a te Atua,
tangohia enei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine;
there are gluten free wafers, just ask the serving priest.

If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing.

Te Taro o te Ora. The bread of life.

Te Kapu o te Ora. The cup of salvation.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

This joyful Eastertide *Charles Wood (1866-1926)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Risen Christ,
whom we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands;
the word of life
in whom our joy is complete:
send us out to declare your truth,
your unshakable faith
in the world you love.
Amen. [7]

BLESSING

---

[7] *Steven Shakespeare*

HYMN

Because you live, O Christ,
the garden of the world has come to flower,
the darkness of the tomb
is flooded with your resurrection power –

The stone has rolled away
and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day,
for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has risen!

Because you live, O Christ,
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,
our cages of despair
no longer keep us closed and life-denying –

The stone has rolled away
and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day,
for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has risen!

Because you live, O Christ,
the rainbow of your peace will span creation,
the colors of your love
will draw all humankind to adoration –

The stone has rolled away
and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day,
for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has risen!

Words: Shirley Murray
Tune: Vruechten, melody from J. Oudaen's 'Psalter', Amsterdam, 1685
harm. Charles Wood (1866-1926). TiS 381

Deacon:

Alleluia. Alleluia.
Go now for the Spirit of God is alive in the land.

Amen. We go in the power of love. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is risen, Hallelujah *Matthew Howes (b. 1991)*

The congregation is invited
to party with the Risen Christ
following the service.

EASTER DAY
21 April, 8am & 10am

We invite you to keep
this copy of the Service
and take it home with you
to share with another member
of your family, or with a friend.

Music for Liturgical responses is by
Michael CW Bell

Hymns reproduced with permission under
license A-609859, One License