



**THE GREAT
VIGIL
OF EASTER
AND BAPTISM**

**ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY
SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2016**

*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.

*Four members of our community will be baptised
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 brothers and sisters in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when the gospel tells us Jesus passed over from death to life,
the Church invites her members throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.
This is the Passover of Jesus Christ.
By hearing the scriptures and celebrating his sacraments,
we share in his victory over death
and our hope to live with him for ever in God.

We light the fire.

Redeeming God, source of life and light,
you made this most holy night to shine with the brightness
of your one true light;
bless this new fire, set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ.
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 33:1-9

Chant: Dr. Boyce

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: Chris Adams

¹ Jim Cotter, "Darkness Yielding"

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.

READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The valley of dry bones

SONG OF ISAIAH

Setting: Chris Adams

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*

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 strife is past, the battle done;
now is the victor's triumph won;
now let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
and Jesus has his foes dispersed;
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**On the third day he rose again
glorious in majesty to reign;
let us take up the great refrain:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**He closed the frowning gates of hell;
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumph tell:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Now by your stripes our wounded King,
your servants free from death's dread sting,
that we may live in you and sing
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*Words: Anon., Latin, in Symphonia Sirenum Selectarum, Cologne, 1695
tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909) alt.*

*Tune: Vulpius, melody from Melchior Vulpius (c.1560-1615)
in his 'Gesangbuch', Jena, 1609. TiS 367*

BAPTISM

GOD'S CALL

The priest says:

E te whānau a te Karaiti,
God is love, God gives us life.
We love because God first loves us.
In baptism God declares that love;
in Christ God calls us to respond.

THE PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

Each candidate for baptism is presented individually by a sponsor:

I present *N* to be baptised
and made a member of the Body of Christ, the Church

The priest says:

From the beginning the Church has received believers by baptism.
Believers' children have also been baptised
so that with help and encouragement they should grow up in Christ
and by the grace of God serve Christ all the days of their life.
On the day when the apostles
first preached the Gospel of Christ's resurrection,
Peter urged his hearers
'Repent and be baptised, every one of you,
in the name of Jesus the Christ
for the forgiveness of your sins,
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
For the promise is to you and to your children,
and to all who are far away, everyone whom
the Lord our God may call.'

Karyn, Kashini, Ruth (*individually*)
How do you respond to this promise?

Candidate: I hear God's call and come for baptism.

Maximus do you want to be baptised
and so be a follower of Jesus?

Maximus: Yes, I do.

The priest says to the candidates:

Do you turn away from what could separate you from God
and do you desire to know the love of God in your life?

The candidates reply:

I do.

The priest says:

Do you trust in Christ's victory
which brings forgiveness, freedom and life?

The candidates reply:

In faith I turn to Christ
my way, my truth, my life.

People:

May God keep you in the way you have chosen.

THE BAPTISM

The priest stands by the water for baptism, and says:

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

People:

whose promise endures for ever.

The priest prays:

We thank you God for your love in all creation,
especially for your gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you for your covenant with your people Israel;
through the Red Sea waters
you led them to freedom in the promised land.

In the waters of the Jordan
your Son was baptised by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Through the deep waters of death Jesus fulfilled his baptism.
He died to set us free
and was raised to be exalted Lord of all.

It is Christ who baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

We thank you that through the waters of baptism
you cleanse us, renew us by your Spirit and raise us to new life.
In the new covenant we are made members of your Church
and share in your eternal kingdom.
Through your Holy Spirit, fulfil once more your promises
in this water of rebirth,
set apart in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!**

*The priest baptises each candidate for baptism,
by pouring water on the candidate, saying:*

Karyn / Maximus / Kashini / Ruth /

I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.
God receives you by baptism into the Church.
Child of God, blessed in the Spirit,
welcome to the family of Christ.**

The priest makes the sign of the cross on each of the baptised with oil, saying:

We sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

A lighted candle is given by a representative of the congregation, who says:

Walk in the faith of Christ crucified and risen.
Shine with the light of Christ.

THE AFFIRMATION

The congregation, the newly baptised, stand to respond in these affirmations.

Praise to God who has given us life.
Blessed be God for the gift of love.

Praise to God who forgives our sin.
Blessed be God who sets us free.

Praise to God who kindles our faith.
Blessed be God, our strength, our hope.

The priest says to all those present who are baptised Christians:

Let us, the baptised, affirm that we commit our lives to Christ.

All respond:

Blessed be God, blessed be Jesus!

The priest then says to the newly baptized:

What is your faith?

They respond:

I believe and trust in God the Creator,
maker and sustainer of all things;
and in God the Son, my Saviour Jesus Christ;
and in God the Holy Spirit, giver of life and truth.
This is my faith.

Priest:

Karyn and Pierre how then will you care for Maximus?

Parents and godparents:

I will love this child and share my faith with him.

Priest:

As a community of faith we rejoice at these baptisms
and will share with Karyn, Maximus, Kashini, Ruth
what we ourselves have received:
a delight in prayer, a love for the word of God,
a desire to follow the way of Christ, and food for the journey.

Karyn, Maximus, Kashini, Ruth you are now pilgrims with us.
May you grow in the Holy Spirit,
fulfil your ministry and follow Christ you whole life long.

**God of love,
we thank you for our calling to be disciples of Christ.
Help us to nurture these people in the faith we share.
May they grow to love, worship and serve you,
and bring life to the world. Amen.**

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of 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. WOY 278*

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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

Musical notation for the hymn "Bless-ed be God for ev - er." The melody is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). There are two triplet markings over the first three notes (G, A, B) and the last three notes (F#, E, D). The lyrics "Bless-ed be God for ev - er." are written below the staff.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Musical notation for the hymn "Alleluia. The Spirit is here God's hope is in us". The melody is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). There are two triplet markings over the last three notes (F#, E, D). The lyrics "Alleluia. The Spirit is here God's hope is in us" are written below the staff. The word "Cantor" is written above the first note, and "All" is written above the last note.

Musical notation for the hymn "Lift up your hearts We lift them up to God". The melody is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). There are two triplet markings over the last three notes (F#, E, D). The lyrics "Lift up your hearts We lift them up to God" are written below the staff. The word "Cantor" is written above the first note, and "All" is written above the last note.

Musical notation for the hymn "Let us give thanks to the God of peace". The melody is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics "Let us give thanks to the God of peace" are written below the staff. The word "Cantor" is written above the first note.

Musical notation for the hymn "It is right to offer thanks and praise.". The melody is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics "It is right to offer thanks and praise." are written below the staff. The word "All" is written above the first note.

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:

4

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One, God of po-wer and might

Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho -san-na in the high-est.

2

Bless the One who comes in the pow'r of love. Ho-

3

san - na, Ho -san-na, Ho -san - na in the high - est!

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.

Break the bread for free-dom. Pour the wine for jus - tice.
 Ce - le - brate this meal for all the world, a
 meal of faith and hope, God's love, shared a - mong us. ³

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. ⁴

Blessing and hon-our and glo - ry be Yours, here and
 ev-'ry -where now and for - ev - er, A - men.

Please be seated.

³ Words by Jenny Blood

⁴ 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.⁵

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.**

⁵ *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.

*On returning from communion
you are invited to go past the font for asperging (sprinkling with water).*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Ave verum corpus

William Byrd (1540-1623)

Text: Hymn for Corpus Christi (Attrib.: Pope Innocent IV d.1362)

Since by man came death (from Messiah)

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

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.**⁶

⁶ Steven Shakespeare

BLESSING

HYMN

Jesus lives! your terror now
can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, can not enthrall us. Hallelujah!

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

Jesus lives! our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever;
fame, or hurt, or powers of hell
tear us from his keeping never. Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
not for us a gloomy portal
when we take our final breath,
but the gate to life eternal. Hallelujah!

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. Hallelujah!

Words: Christian Füchtgott Gellert (1715-1769)

tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897)

Tune: St Albinus, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876). TiS 372

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.

Exsultate justi Ludovico Grossi da Viadana (1560-1627)

Text: Psalm 32 (V) vv. 1-3

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

*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.*

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Michael CW Bell*

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