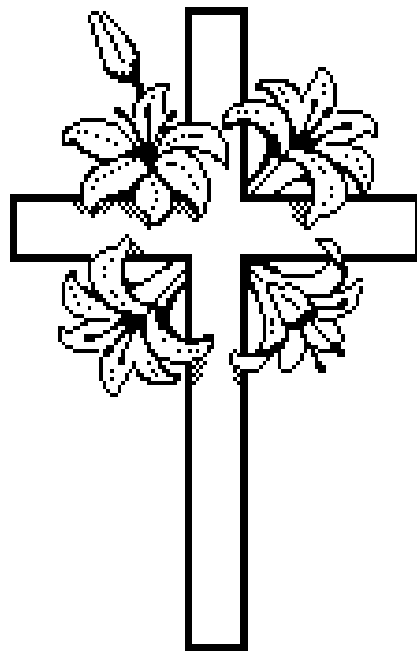


EASTER



*So, it comes.
Nothing else like it.
No image adequate. No simile. No metaphor.
Unable to talk about it but inadequately
We celebrate this great, real mystery that
Neither language nor imagination can encompass.
Easter!*

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Reader 1: We are the people of God.
We are part of a story with roots deep in human history.

Reader2: AS WE AWAIT THE RISEN CHRIST,
LET US REMEMBER OUR PAST
AND WHERE WE COME FROM;
WHO WE ARE AND THE WONDER OF GOD
AT WORK SINCE THE BEGINNING.

Reader 1: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep
while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters

Reader2: AT THE VERY DAWN OF CREATION,
GOD'S SPIRIT BREATHED ON THE WATERS,
MAKING THEM WELLSPRINGS OF ALL HOLINESS

Reader1: In the days of Noah, God cleansed the world with
the waters of the flood.

Reader 2: SETTING A RAINBOW IN THE SKY,
GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH HUMANITY
AND MADE THE FLOOD A SIGN OF THE WATERS OF BAPTISM
THAT MAKE AN END TO SIN
AND OFFER A NEW BEGINNING OF HOLINESS.

Reader1: Pharaoh ordered the death of male Hebrew children
but his mother hid Moses among reeds
and Pharaoh's daughter drew him to safety from the water.

Reader 2: AND MOSES LED GOD'S PEOPLE
THROUGH THE WATERS OF THE RED SEA
TO BE AN IMAGE OF GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE
SET FREE BY GOD.

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah said to the people of Israel:
"I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

Reader 2: GOD HAS BECOME MY SALVATION.
WITH JOY YOU WILL DRAW WATER
FROM THE WELLS OF SALVATION .”

Reader1 And Isaiah called the people back to God:
“Come ! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters”

Reader 2: SEEK THE LORD WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND.
CALL UPON HIM WHILE HE IS NEAR.” .

Reader1: Ezekial spoke God’s promise of new life:
“I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean....

Reader 2: A NEW HEART I WILL GIVE YOU,
AND A NEW SPIRIT I WILL PUT WITHIN YOU...
AND YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE YOUR GOD. “

Reader 1: In Jesus, God has shown us the path of life.

Reader 2: HE HAS LIVED AS ONE OF US, THAT WE MAY LIVE LIKE HIM.

Reader1: In the waters of the Jordan,
Jesus was baptised by John and anointed with the Spirit.

Reader 2: IN BAPTISM, WE DIE WITH CHRIST
AND ARE BORN INTO NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST

Reader 1: And we become part of the story - the story of salvation.

Reader 2: THE JOURNEY OF A PEOPLE
AND THEIR GOD
WHO BRINGS LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS

Lighting of the Pascal Candle

The presider marks a cross and traces Alpha and Omega and the numerals of the current year on it

Jesus Christ yesterday and today	<i>Vertical arm is traced</i>
The beginning and the end	<i>Horizontal arm</i>
Alpha and Omega	<i>above and below the cross</i>
All time belongs to Christ	<i>first numeral in upper left corner</i>
And all the ages	<i>second numeral in upper right corner</i>
To Christ be glory and power	<i>third numeral in lower left corner</i>
Through every age forever	<i>fourth numeral in lower right corner</i>

Insert five nails, at extremities of arms of the cross

By his holy	1
And glorious wounds	2
May Christ our Lord	3
Guard us	4
And keep us	5

The pascal candle is lit and the presider says

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
Dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds

The minster takes the Pascal candle, lifts it high and says

The Light of Christ **Thanks be to God**

The pascal candle is carried to its stand

**Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels;
Rejoice now, all creation;
Sound forth, trumpet of salvation,
And proclaim the triumph of our King.
Rejoice too, all the earth,
In the radiance of the light now poured upon you
And made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King;
Know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished.
Rejoice, O Church of Christ,
Clothed in the brightness of this light;
Let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing,
With the praises of all God's faithful people.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew** chapter **28** beginning at verse **1**
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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."

This is the gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Dear friends, in baptism,
through the pascal mystery,
we have been buried with Christ in his baptism,
so that we may rise with him to new life.

Now that our Lenten observance is ended,
Let us reaffirm the promises we made in baptism.

Do you turn to Christ ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

I reject them all.

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

I renounce all evil.

Will you each, by God's grace,
strive to live as a disciple of Christ,
loving God with your whole heart,
and your neighbour as yourself ,
until your life's end?

I will, with God's help.

You have heard your brothers and sisters respond to Christ.
Will you support them in this calling?

We will.

The Blessing of the Water of Baptism

The priest comes to the place where the water for baptism is

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation
your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters
to bring forth light and life.

With water you cleanse and replenish the earth;
you nourish and sustain all living things.

Thanks be to God

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery into freedom,
and brought them through the river Jordan
to new life in the land of promise.

Thanks be to God

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ:
for his baptism by John,
for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death
Jesus delivered us from our sins
and was raised to new life in triumph.

Thanks be to God

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit
who forms us in the likeness of Christ
and leads us to proclaim your kingdom.

Thanks be to God

The priest continues

And now we give you thanks that we are made one with Christ in his death and resurrection.
Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing, that this water may be a sign of our new birth in baptism.
May we continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

I now ask you to affirm as yours the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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 priest says to the congregation

This is the faith of the Church.

The congregation responds

**This is our faith.
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Water is sprinkled over the people

Remember your baptism promises

Prayers

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, as we rejoice this day
we remember your words to the disciples 'Peace be unto you'.
We pray for peace in our world,
that we may rise above all that would cause strife and conflict,
that your victory over the powers of evil may be allowed to work in your world.

Christ Jesus, risen in glory,
scatter the darkness from our hearts and from your world.

Risen Lord, as you appeared to Mary in the garden,
to the disciples in the Upper Room,
to the travellers on the road to Emmaus,
be known among us.
Christ be in our homes, in our work and in our journeying.
Risen Lord, let us walk in your presence and peace.

Christ Jesus, risen in glory,
scatter the darkness from our hearts and from your world.

We remember before you all who walk in darkness and fear,
all who are weighed down, all who are heavily laden.
We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19,
through illness or isolation or anxiety.
We pray for all who have lost hope,
for all who are ill
for those who are approaching death
that they may know your living presence with them

Christ Jesus, risen in glory,
scatter the darkness from our hearts and from your world.

We rejoice in the glory of our Risen Lord
and of all your saints
who have shared in your triumph over the grave and death.
We pray today for our loved ones departed,
that they may rejoice in the glory of your presence.

Christ Jesus, risen in glory,
scatter the darkness from our hearts and from your world.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Christ is risen. Alleluia
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you
And also with you

Living God
Make us apostles of the risen Christ
Give us joyful hearts, words of hope
And grace to recognise the Lord Jesus when he meets us
Wherever we are on the road

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Hymn

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.*

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. Refrain

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. Refrain

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