



**The Parish Church of St Mary
Magdalene**

The Easter Liturgy

4th April 2021 at 5.45am

Easter Day



The Vigil

The church is in darkness. The ministers enter in silence.

The light by which the readings are to be read is lit.

Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All

Amen.

The president may introduce the Vigil using these or other appropriate words

This is the night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life.
The Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer. Let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

A series of readings and prayers follows, with periods of silence, as we await dawn.

A Service of Light

The ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Easter Candle. All the lights in the building are switched off. The people stand and turn to face the ministers.

The president says

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.

The Easter Candle is marked

All Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
All **to him be glory and power,**
through every age and for ever. Amen.

Five grains of incense are inserted into the candle, in the form of a cross

By his holy
and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord
guard us
and keep us.

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

The president lights the Easter Candle, saying

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

The minister carrying the Candle raises it and says

The light of Christ
Thanks be to God.

All

People may light their candles from the Easter Candle.

The procession moves further into the building and then stops. The versicle and response are repeated.

When the minister carrying the Candle arrives at the front of the church it is placed on a stand in the midst of the building, and all other candles in the church are now lit.

The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) is sung or said by a minister standing near the Candle.

The Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of
your creation,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made, lights switched on and the people's candles extinguished.

Gloria in Excelsis *is sung by the cantor*

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.

The Collect

President Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in
glory.

All pray silently

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.

All **Amen.**



The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone

who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”
Acts 10.34-43

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All **Alleluia.**

John 20.1-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached

the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;
⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that
he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples
returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she
wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she
saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus
had been lying, one at the head and the other at the
feet. ¹³They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you
weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my
Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’

¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw
Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was
Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you
weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to
be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have
carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I
will take him away.’ ¹⁶Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She
turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ which
means Teacher. ¹⁷Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to
me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But
go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to
my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had
said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

¶ The Liturgy of Initiation

The president moves to a bowl which represents the baptismal font, placed in view of the camera to enable those watching at home to see and participate.

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The president says

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?

All I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All I renounce them.

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

All I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

All I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
All **I come to Christ.**

May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ
give you strength to continue in the Way.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

The president pours water into the font and then says

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give him 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.

Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of
the Church.

All Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

All Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All 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.

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of
faith
with all who have been baptized in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your
Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The president returns from the font

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

cf John 20.19

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The table is prepared. Bread and wine are placed upon it.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your
glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all
creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness
of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of
salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

All
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The cantor sings the Agnus Dei

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The president and people receive communion.

Those at home may like to use this prayer in an act of spiritual communion

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know
you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Blessing

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,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

A minister says

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The church bells are rung as the ministers and people depart.

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):

Acts 10.34-43 © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Pub. Hodder & Stoughton

Invitation to Confession (Easter Day until Eve of Ascension) © 1988 Continuum (Mowbray) (Adapted)

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The