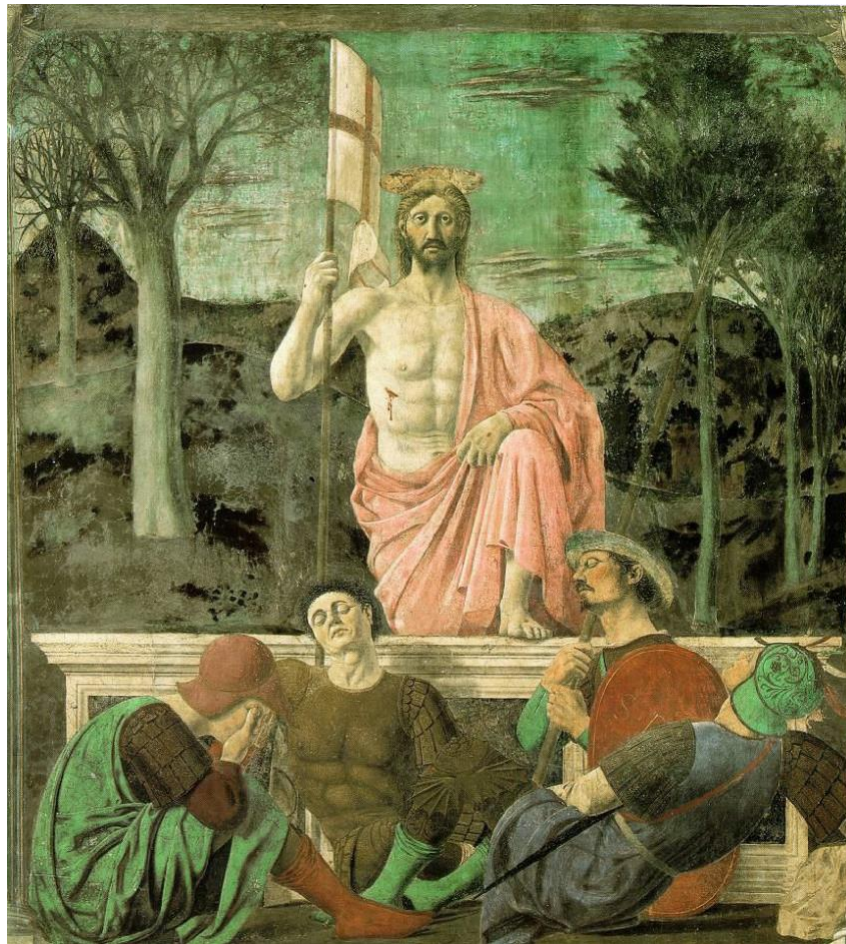




The Easter Liturgy (with Holy Baptism)



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ, 1463, Piero della Francesca

The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene with St Paul in the Bail and St Michael on the Mount

About this Service

The Easter Liturgy is the most joyful and focused celebration of Christ's resurrection in the church's year. Every eucharist is a celebration of Christ's resurrection, but on Easter Sunday, when the preparations and privations of Lent and Passiontide come to an end, those celebrations have a special power.

From the earliest days, Easter Sunday was an occasion for baptism, and is also a fitting time for a renewal of baptism. In baptism, we come to participate in Christ's resurrection, so the baptismal liturgy stands at the heart of this Easter Sunday service.

The 'Alleluia', not said in Lent, now returns to our worship, and throughout the Easter season we will proclaim 'Alleluia, Christ is risen; He is risen indeed, Alleluia.'

The Service of Light

The ministers go to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Easter Candle. All the lights in the building are switched off. This acclamation is used as the Easter Candle is marked and blessed

Christ yesterday and today,

All 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.**

Nails or incense studs are inserted into the Easter Candle.

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

All Amen.

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 Easter Candle is lit

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

The minister carrying the candle raises it and sings

The light of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

People 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 Candle arrives at the front of the church it is placed on a stand in the midst of the building. All other candles in the church are now lit.

A hymn is sung

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Gloria in Excelsis

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *is sung*

All **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

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

Silence is kept.

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

Two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading. A Psalm is sung between the readings.

At the end of each the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

This acclamation heralds the 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

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Liturgy of Initiation

The candidate for baptism, his parents and godparents, gather with the president at the baptismal font. The congregation faces the baptismal font. The president says

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.

Presentation of the Candidate

The candidate is presented to the congregation. The president addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number
those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates
and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

The Decision / 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.

Signing with the Cross

The sign of the cross is made on the forehead of the candidate for baptism

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

The president says

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All Amen.

Prayer over the Water

The president stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give 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.

Saving God,

All give us life.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.

Saving God,

All give us life.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.

Saving God,

All **give us life.**

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.

Saving God,

All **give us life.**

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.

Saving God,

All **give us life.**

Profession of Faith

The people reaffirm their faith

Beloved in Christ, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **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.

Baptism

The president pours water on them, saying

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

All Amen.

The president says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All Amen.

The waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people. The president says

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.

Commission

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

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.

Amen.

Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N and N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.

The congregation greets the newly baptized.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The president introduces 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.

Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace, greeting one another with these words

Christ is risen.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

A hymn is sung. The gifts of the people are gathered and presented. The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it. This prayer is said

Lord of life,
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven
may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All 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 on this day of our redemption
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:

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS are said or sung in this or another form

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.**

The president recalls the Last Supper. This acclamation is used

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;**
give us this bread always.

AGNUS DEI is sung in this or another language or translation

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president says

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The president and people receive communion. During the distribution anthems are sung.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The president says the Post Communion prayer., then we pray together

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

A hymn is sung.

The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All **Amen.**

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

The ministers and people depart.

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