



# THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

MARCH

30

2024



*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 gospel 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.*

*Priest:*

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.**<sup>1</sup>

# READING

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

*Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea*

# SONG OF MOSES

*Setting: Douglas Mews (1918-1993)*

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.**

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<sup>1</sup> *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.** <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Steven Shakespeare*

*Please stand.*

## THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Mark,  
chapter sixteen, beginning at verse one.



*Mark 16:1-8*

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.

Tonight 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.



Let all who are thirst-y\_\_ come. Let all who are thirst-y\_\_ come.



Let all who wish re - ceive\_\_ the wa-ter of life\_\_ free - ly.



Let all who are thirst-y\_\_ come. Let all who are thirst-y\_\_ come.



Let all who wish re - ceive\_\_ the wa-ter of life\_\_ free - ly.



Let all who are thirst-y\_\_ come. Let all who are thirst-y\_\_ come. 3

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, melody from J. Horn's "Gesangbuch", 1544. TIS 391*

# THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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

Musical notation for the first piece. It consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). There are two triplet markings over the first three notes (G, A, B) and the last three notes (F#, E, D).

Bless-ed be God for ev - er.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Musical notation for the first line of the second piece. It consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). There is a triplet marking over the last three notes (F#, E, D). The word 'Cantor' is written above the first three notes, and 'All' is written above the last three notes.

*Cantor* Alleluia. The Spirit is here God's hope is in us

Musical notation for the second line of the second piece. It consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). There is a triplet marking over the last three notes (F#, E, D). The word 'Cantor' is written above the first three notes, and 'All' is written above the last three notes.

*Cantor* Lift up your hearts We lift them up to God

Musical notation for the third line of the second piece. It consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The word 'Cantor' is written above the first three notes.

*Cantor* Let us give thanks to the God of peace

Musical notation for the fourth line of the second piece. It consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The word 'All' is written above the first three notes.

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

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-

san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est! 3

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.

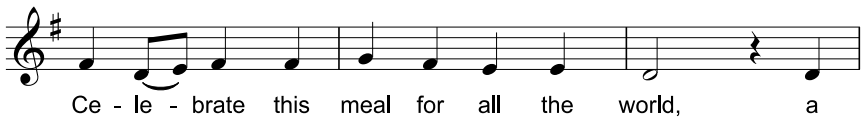
On the night when he gave himself up for us,  
 he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
 gave it to his disciples, and said:  
 Take, eat: this is my Body which is given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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. 4

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. <sup>5</sup>

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

*Please be seated.*

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<sup>5</sup> Richard Fabian, *St Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco*

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit,  
Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker,  
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. <sup>6</sup>

# 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.

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<sup>6</sup> 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

*Now the green blade riseth*

*Arranged by Simon Lindley*

*This joyful Eastertide*     *Dutch carol, arranged by Philip Ledger (1937-2012)*

# 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. <sup>7</sup>

# BLESSING

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<sup>7</sup> *Steven Shakespeare*

# HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing: Alleluia!

*Words: Compleat Psalmist, 1749*

*Tune: Easter Hymn, later form of melody from 'Lyra Davidica', 1708. TIS 362*

*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.**

# ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Erschienen ist der herrliche Tag, BWV 629*

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

## MUSIC NOTES

Simon Lindley was the Organist and Master of Music at Leeds Minster and Leeds City Organist. His arrangement of the traditional French christmas carol Noël nouvelet, refreshingly sung to alternative Easter words that recall the promise of Spring and the hope of Earth, is infused with quiet, joyful expectation and delicious French harmonies.

Philip Ledger was the Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge and later the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He provides a lively alternative to this well-known Easter carol; the varied use of counterpoint and antiphonal effects make this short piece both an interesting and enjoyable version of the tune Hoe groot de vrugten zijn (from David's Psalmen, Amsterdam, 1685).

**EASTER DAY**  
31 March, 10am

**FIRST TUESDAY CONCERT**  
2 April, 12.10pm

*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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