



**St John the Divine**  
*Easter Vigil & Service of Light*  
**Holy Saturday**  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Welcome to our live-streamed service, linked from our parish website: [www.stjohndivine.org.au](http://www.stjohndivine.org.au)

Tonight's service is in two parts:

1. the Vigil, whereby we recall God's saving actions across time; and
2. the Service of Light, in which we acclaim the resurrection, focused around the Easter light.

THE VIGIL

*A fire 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.  
**Amen.**

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 wherever they are 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.

First reading: Genesis 1.1-2.4a

*The song of the goodness of God's creation*

Taizé chant

**Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.**

Let us pray that we may see God's image restored.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
Your love cannot be contained  
and overflows in the wonder of creation.  
You formed the universe out of nothing  
and moulded us from the clay of the earth.  
All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

Second reading: Genesis 22.1-18

*Abraham and Isaac - the sacrifice and the blessing*

Taizé chant

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:  
in God I trust, in God I trust.**

Let us pray that we may have the courage and strength to make the sacrifices our faith demands.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
Through the faithfulness of Abraham  
all the children of earth are blessed.

Give us the courage to give up to you  
those things that are most precious to us,  
that in turn we may receive  
the honour and the joy of your blessing,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

Third reading: Exodus 12.1-24

*The Passover - the blood of the lamb protects God's people from death*

Taizé chant

**Within our darkest night, you kindle a fire  
that never dies away, never dies away.**

Let us pray that God will feed and sustain his people through the hard journeys of this life.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
With the dawning of their deliverance  
your people ate the feast of freedom.  
As Christ our Passover Lamb  
gives hope to the hopeless and frees the ensnared,  
Establish the justice for which your heart yearns,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

Fourth reading: Exodus 13.21; 14.10-31

*Crossing the Red Sea - escaping slavery to be free to respond to God's blessing*

Taizé chant

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:  
in God I trust, in God I trust.**

Let us pray that God will give freedom to his enslaved people.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
You heard the agony of your people  
as they cried out from their slavery,  
and you gave them Moses  
to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey.  
Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today  
and lead us through the turbulent sea of life  
to our true home with you,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

Fifth reading: Jeremiah 31.31-34

*God promises a new covenant, of the heart*

Taizé chant

**Within our darkest night, you kindle a fire  
that never dies away, never dies away.**

Let us pray that God will rekindle in us a renewed love for him.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
Even when your people broke your covenant,  
your heart cried out for them  
and you remained steadfast as a faithful husband.  
Renew in us our love for you  
and write your law on our hearts,  
that we may truly be your people, and you our God,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

*Sixth reading: Ezekiel 36.24-28*

*Sprinkled clean, and given a new heart*

*Taizé chant*

**Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.**

Let us pray that God will give to the thirsting  
a new outpouring of his refreshing spirit.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
When we are overwhelmed by the wasting world,  
gather us again and renew us.

Create in us a new heart and a renewed spirit,  
that we may be a people prepared  
to live in your land and walk in your ways,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

*Seventh reading: Ezekiel 37.1-14*

*The valley of dry bones - God promises to put his spirit  
within us*

*Taizé chant*

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:  
in God I trust, in God I trust.**

Let us pray that God will breathe new life into his weary  
creation.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
You bring life from the darkest valley of death.  
When hope is lost

and our dry bones are scattered in shame,  
speak your word to your broken people,  
that we may stand confidently before you,  
and breathe your Spirit into us that we might live,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

*Eighth reading: Ezekiel 47.1-12*

*The river of the water of life*

*Taizé chant*

**Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.**

Let us pray that God's justice will flow like rivers in the  
deserts of this world.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
The river of life flows from your heart  
and where that stream goes everything bursts into flower.  
May your refreshing water  
be a torrent of life in the deserts of this world,  
bringing food to eat and healing to the nations,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

#### THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

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. **Amen.**

*The Easter Candle is marked in prayer*

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 our Lord guard us and keep us. **Amen.**

*The Easter Candle is lit from the fire*

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

*The Easter Candle is processed to the sanctuary*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### THE EXSULTET

Hymn: Sing choirs of heaven!

*Church House Publishing, 1984 - tune: Woodlands  
© The Archbishops' Council, 1999, CCL No 632290*

- 1. Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!  
Around God's throne exult in harmony!  
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!  
Salute your King in glorious symphony!**
- 2. Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!  
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!  
The night is past, the day of life is here!**
- 3. Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!  
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!  
Your Saviour lives; he's with you evermore!  
Let all God's people sound the long Amen!**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right that with full hearts and minds and  
voices we should praise you, the unseen God, the Father  
Almighty, and your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who  
has ransomed us by his death, and paid for us the price  
of Adam's sin. For this is the Passover of that true Lamb  
of God, by whose blood the homes of all the faithful are  
hallowed and protected. This is the night when of old you  
saved our ancestors, delivering the people of Israel from  
their slavery, and leading them dry-shod through the sea.  
This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell and  
rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night when all  
who believe in him are freed from sin and restored to  
grace and holiness. Most blessed of all nights, when  
wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away, lost  
innocence regained and mourning turned to joy. Night  
truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and all  
creation reconciled to God! Therefore, Heavenly Father,  
in the joy of this night, accept our sacrifice of praise, your  
Church's solemn offering; and grant that this Easter  
candle may make our darkness light; for Christ the  
Morning Star has risen, never again to set, and is alive  
and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Taizé gloria

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo.  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

God of glory, by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Romans 6.3-11*

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114

- 1 When Israel came out of Egypt:  
and the house of Jacob from among a people  
of an alien tongue,
- 2 **Judah became his sanctuary:  
and Israel his dominion.**
- 3 The sea saw that, and fled:  
Jordan was driven back.
- 4 **The mountains skipped like rams:  
and the little hills like young sheep.**
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled:  
O Jordan, that you were driven back?
- 6 **You mountains, that you skipped like rams:  
and you little hills like young sheep?**
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord:  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 **Who turned the rock into a pool of water:  
and the flint-stone into a welling spring.**

Hymn: This is the night of new beginnings  
*Robert F O'Connor SJ - tune: Christ Be Our Light*  
© OCP Publications, 1990, CCL No 632290

1. **This is the night of new beginnings.**  
**This is the night when heaven meets earth.**  
**This is the night filled with God's glory,**  
**promise of our new birth!**  
**Christ, be our light!**  
**Shine in our hearts.**  
**Shine through the darkness.**  
**Christ, be our light!**  
**Shine in your church gather today.**
2. **This is the night Christ our Redeemer**  
**rose from the grave triumphant and free,**  
**leaving the tomb of evil and darkness**  
**empty for all to see.**  
**Christ, be our light ...**
3. **Now will the fire kindled in darkness**  
**burn to dispel the shadows of night.**  
**Star of the morning, Jesus our Saviour,**  
**you are the world's true light.**  
**Christ, be our light ...**
4. **Sing of the hope deeper than dying.**  
**Sing of the power stronger than death.**  
**Sing of the love endless as heaven,**  
**dawning throughout the earth.**  
**Christ, be our light ...**
5. **Into this world morning is breaking;**  
**all of God's people, lift up your voice.**  
**Cry out with joy, tell out the story;**  
**all of the earth, rejoice!**  
**Christ, be our light ...**

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.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
St Mark 16.1-8

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## 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.  
The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you. Alleluia.**

Hymn: Rejoice, the Lord is King

*Charles Wesley (1707-88) alt. - tune: Gopsal*

© The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, 1999,  
CCL No 632290

1. **Rejoice, the Lord is King;**  
**Your Lord and King adore;**  
**Let all give thanks, and sing,**  
**And triumph evermore;**  
**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.**  
*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*
2. **Jesus the Saviour reigns,**  
**The God of truth and love;**  
**When he purged our stains,**  
**He took his seat above:**  
*Lift up your heart ...*
3. **His kingdom cannot fail,**  
**He rules o'er earth and heaven;**  
**The keys of death and hell**  
**Are to our Jesus given;**  
*Lift up your heart ...*
4. **He sits at God's right hand,**  
**Till all his foes submit,**  
**And bow to his command,**  
**And fall beneath his feet:**  
*Lift up your heart ...*
5. **Rejoice in glorious hope;**  
**Jesus the judge shall come,**  
**And take his servants up**  
**To their eternal home:**  
*Lift up your heart ...*

Rejoicing in God's creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we 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 forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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

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

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

With the risen life of Christ within you,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Permissions

Service excerpts:

• *Common Worship* © 2006 The Archbishops' Council

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved.

CCLI Streaming Licence No. 129545

## NOTICES

*[Daylight Savings ends]*

Sun 4 Apr - Easter Day - 9.30am  
*Renewal of baptismal vows & Eucharist*  
*part B: celebrating the resurrection*

*Our usual schedule of services resume:*  
Wed 10am Eucharist (no music)  
Sun 8am Eucharist (no music)  
Sun 10am Eucharist - with hymns

*The Parish Newsletter is published most weeks, and emailed to all who wish to receive it. Printed copies are also posted to those who prefer it. If you would like to be on the distribution list, kindly provide your email or postal address to the Parish Office:*  
office@stjohndivine.org.au  
6 Toorak Ave, Croydon 3136