



St John the Divine
Service of Light & Vigil
Easter Vigil
16th April 2022

WELCOME!

Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine, and to our live-streamed service, linked from our parish website: www.stjohndivine.org.au

Tonight's service is in two parts:

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

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.
This is the Passover of the Lord.
We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,
confident that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever in God.

Prayer over the fire

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 its stand, all hand-held candles are lit from the Easter Candle, and we sing 3 times:

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.**

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!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gather today.

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 ...

THE VIGIL

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; and 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: The song of the goodness of God's creation

A reading from Genesis 1.1-2.4a ...

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.**

Christ is the image of the unseen God;
through him all things were made.

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Second reading: Adam and Eve - the temptation to
follow our own desire

A reading from Genesis 3 ...

Hear the word of the Lord.

Have mercy on us, O God.

As in Adam all die,
so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil

and to make us the children of God
and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious
kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Third reading: Noah, and the cleansing flood

A reading from Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-19; 9.8-13 ...

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Our Creator brings order
to the chaos in this world.**

In baptism we died to sin.

In Christ we are raised to life.

Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptized into the death
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;
through his merits,
who died and was buried and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth reading: The burning bush - being called through
fire to bring hope to the oppressed

A reading from Exodus 3.1-10 ...

Hear the word of the Lord.

Wait patiently for the Lord.

Your faith is tested by fire
to the praise and glory of Christ.

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in
service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: Word that formed creation

Marty Haugen (b.1950) - tune: Noel Nouvelet

© GIA Publications, 1991, CCL No 632290

1. **Word that formed creation, earth and sea and sky;
Word that brings salvation, Word that will not die;
speak now in us that we might hear your call;
Living Word of Jesus, sound within us all.**

2. **Love that formed and named us,
filled this clay with breath;
Love that seeks and claims us,
Love beyond all death;
come now and fire the life that flows from you;
Love that raised up Jesus, raise us up anew.**

**3. Song of joy and wonder, sound so wild and free;
voice of wind and thunder, boundless as the sea;
Music of God, the love that casts our fear;
Song that sang in Jesus, sing within us here.**

**4. God of all creation, form our hearts anew;
God of our salvation, lead us home to you;
Spirit, inspire our hearts to hear your call;
living God of Jesus, come renew us all!**

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

A reading from Exodus 13.21; 14.10-31 ...

Hear the word of the Lord.

**I will sing to the Lord,
who has triumphed gloriously.**

The Lord is my strength and my might.
He has become my salvation.

Lord God our redeemer,
who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:
free us from the tyranny of sin and death
and, by the leading of your Spirit,
bring us to our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Sixth reading: Jonah and the great fish - God's mercy
when we fail to respond to his call*

A reading from the prophet Jonah 1.1-2.10 ...

Hear the word of the Lord.

With the Lord there is mercy.

Christ has saved us from the pit of death.
He brought new life to the world.

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Seventh reading: The three young men - saved from the
fire*

A reading from the prophet Daniel 3.1-28 ...

Hear the word of the Lord.

Blessed is the Lord who does mighty wonders.

When you walk through the waters Christ is with you.
We will never be consumed by the flames.

O God,
you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

*Eighth reading: Daniel in the lion's den - placing faith in
God's salvation*

A reading from the prophet Daniel 6.1-24 ...

Hear the word of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times.

The angels closed the lions' mouths.

Christ has saved us from the jaws of death.

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

EASTER ACCLAMATION AND GLORIA

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.

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
6.3-11:

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.

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

Hymn: If Christ had not been raised from death

Christopher Idle (b.1938) - tune: Kingsfold

© Christopher Idle/Jubilate Hymns, 1999, CCL No 632290

- 1. If Christ had not been raised from death
our faith would be in vain,
our preaching but a waste of breath,
our sin and guilt remain.
But now the Lord is risen indeed;
he rules in earth and heaven:
his Gospel meets a world of need
in Christ we are forgiven.**
- 2. If Christ still lay within the tomb
then death would be the end,
and we should face our final doom
with neither guide nor friend.
But now the Saviour is raised up,
so when a Christian dies
we mourn, yet look to God in hope
in Christ the saints arise!**
- 3. If Christ had not been truly raised
his church would live a lie;
his name should never more be praised,
his words deserve to die.
But now our great Redeemer lives;
through him we are restored;
his word endures, his church revives
in Christ, our risen Lord.**

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 Luke 25.1-12

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary

Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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.

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.**

Hymn: Jesus is risen, alleluia!

Bernard Kyamanywa (b.1930) tr. John Bell (b.1949) - tune:

Mfurahini Haleluya

© WGRG, 1996, CCL No 632290

- 1. Jesus is risen, alleluia!
Worship and praise him, alleluia!
Now our Redeemer bursts from the grave:
lost to the tomb, Christ rises to save.
Come let us worship him, endlessly sing;
Christ is alive and death loses its sting.
Sins are forgiven, alleluia!
Jesus is risen, alleluia!**
- 2. Buried for three days, destined for death,
now he returns to breathe with our breath.
Blest are the ears alert to his voice,
blest are the hearts which for him rejoice.
Come let us worship ...**
- 3. 'Don't be afraid!' the angel has said,
'Why seek the living here with the dead?
Look, where he lay, his body is gone,
risen and vibrant, warm with the sun.'
Come let us worship ...**
- 4. 'Go tell the others, Christ is alive.'
Love is eternal, faith and hope thrive.
What God intended, Jesus fulfilled;
what God conceives can never be killed.
Come let us worship ...**

**5. Let heaven echo, let the earth sing:
Jesus is saviour of everything.
All those who trust him, Christ will receive;
therefore rejoice, obey and believe!
Come let us worship him, endlessly sing;
Christ is alive and death loses its sting.
Sins are forgiven, alleluia!
Jesus is risen, alleluia!**

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.

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EASTER SERVICE

Easter Day

17th April 9.30am - Renewal of baptismal
vows & Eucharist
(Part B: celebrating the resurrection)

Our regular Sunday services of 8am and
10am will resume next Sunday, 24 April

www.stjohndivine.org.au