

The Parish of
Stony Stratford with Calverton



**THE EASTER VIGIL
IN THE HOLY NIGHT**

For the year 2021

Pastoral Introduction

This may be read quietly before the Liturgy of the Easter Vigil begins

On Holy Saturday the Church waits at the Lord's tomb. All is quiet, the Mass is not celebrated, and everything waits the rising of the Lord. We have been waiting in prayerful expectation, reflecting on the love of God, confident of the triumph of his love over pain, suffering and death.

Tonight, we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord at our Easter Vigil, and share, in a special way, in the glory of the Risen Christ in this most ancient of Christian Liturgies.

The Easter Vigil is in four parts.

Part One is the **Lucernarium** (or Service of Light) - the new fire is kindled and blessed. From that fire comes the light for the Easter (Paschal) Candle which symbolises Christ who dispels the darkness of the night. The Candle is placed high in the Sanctuary and the joyful song of the Easter Proclamation (the Exsultet) is sung, as we rejoice in all that this light symbolises for us and for our world in the new life of Christ.

Part Two is the **Liturgy of the Word** - the story of our salvation is told once more. We re-live the story. As we listen to the Old Testament narrative our trust in the promise of redemption and hope for all people is rekindled.

Part Three is the **Baptismal Liturgy** - through our Baptism we share in the risen life of Christ and are called to share in his continuing mission of redemption. Tonight we celebrate with those being baptised all over the world and recall our own baptisms. We renew our baptismal promises and reflect on their significance for us.

Part Four is the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** - in which we are fully united with Christ and nurtured for our journey until we are one with him in our resurrection. This is the night of all nights to give thanks and praise to our heavenly Father.

FIRST PART:
**THE SOLEMN BEGINNING
OF THE VIGIL OR LUCERNARIUM**

The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle

All the lights in the church are put out. A fire is prepared outside the church where the people assemble. The Priest goes there with a minister, who carries the Easter Candle.

Priest: In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

The priest greets the people

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R/. and also with you.

Priest: Dear brethren,
on this most sacred night,
in which our Lord Jesus Christ
passed over from death to life,
the Church calls upon her sons and daughters,
scattered throughout the world,
to come together to watch and pray.
If we keep the memorial
of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way,
listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries,
then we shall have the sure hope
of sharing his triumph over death
and living with him in God.

Then the fire is blessed:

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, who through your Son
bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory,
sanctify ✠ this new fire, we pray,
and grant that,
by these paschal celebrations
we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires,
that with minds made pure
we may attain festivities of unending splendour.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The Easter Candle is then brought to the Priest who marks the candle with a Cross, the letters Alpha and Omega, and the numbers of the current year, while saying the following:

Christ yesterday and today
the Beginning and the End
the Alpha
and the Omega
All time belongs to him
and all the ages
To him be glory and power
through every age and for ever. Amen.

Then the Priest takes the five grains of incense and inserts them into the candle in the form of a cross, saying:

By his holy
and glorious wounds,
may Christ the Lord
guard us
and protect us.

R/. Amen.

Then the lights the candle from the new fire, saying:

May the light of Christ rising in glory
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Procession

Then the Deacon, or if there is no Deacon, the priest takes the Candle, raises it high and sings:

Deacon: The Light of Christ.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Then all enter the church, the Thurifer leading the Deacon. When all have entered the church he faces the people, raises the Candle high, and sings:

Deacon: The Light of Christ.

R/. Thanks be to God.

The ministers light their candles from the Easter Candle and then all light their candles from them. The Procession then goes to towards the Sanctuary. When the Deacon arrives before the altar he faces the people, raises the Candle high and sings:

Deacon: The Light of Christ.

R/. Thanks be to God.

He then places the Candle in its stand in the Sanctuary while the people take their places. He incenses the Candle and then sings the Exsultet, the people holding their lighted candles.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May almighty God bless you on this solemn feast of Easter,
and may he protect you against all sin.

R/. Amen.

Through the resurrection of his Son
God has granted us healing.
May he fulfil his promises,
and bless you with eternal life.

R/. Amen.

You have mourned for Christ's sufferings;
now you celebrate the joy of his resurrection.
May you come with joy to the feast which lasts for ever.

R/. Amen.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, **X** and the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia!

**R/. Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

Recessional Voluntary: 'La Rejouissance' - Handel

The Agnus Dei

(KNEEL)

**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.**

The priest shows the consecrated Host to the people, saying:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
**✠ Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

An antiphon is sung as the people reverently receive Holy Communion.

Our Passover * hath been sacrificed, Christ himself. Alleluia! And therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truthfulness, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. I was hard-pressed and called upon the Lord *
He heard and relieved me.
2. No, I shall not die, but shall live *
and recall the deeds of God.
3. Thou art my God, I thank thee exceedingly *
Thee do I extol, O my God.
4. The stone rejected by the builder *
hath become the cornerstone.
5. By the Lord hath this been done *
it is marvellous in our sight.

Organ Voluntary: 'God be praised' - Healey Willan

Prayer after Communion

(STAND)

Let us pray.

Silence is kept and the priest leads us in prayer:

Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
and in your kindness make those you have nourished
by this paschal Sacrament
one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lighting of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

(Therefore, dearest friends,
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,
invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty,
that he who has been pleased to number me,
though unworthy, among the Levites,
may pour into me his light unshadowed,
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.)

R/. The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

R/. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and just,
with ardent love of mind and heart,
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.
Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and pouring out his own dear Blood
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.
These then are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears,
Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.
This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.
This is the night that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin,

lending them to grace, and joining them to his holy ones.
This is the night when Christ broke the prison-bars of death,
and rose victorious from the underworld.
Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!
O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!
O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!
O truly blessed night, worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness.
The sanctifying power of this night dispels all wickedness,
washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.
On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar,
which glowing fire ignites for God's honour,
a fire into many flames divided,
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,
for it is fed by melting wax,
drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.
Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honour of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.

May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son,
who coming back from death's domain
has shed his peaceful light on humanity
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R/. Amen.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues with the priest interceding for the Church, the world, all those present at this celebration, and the Faithful Departed.
At the Doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer all join in the Great Amen.*

Priest:for ever and ever.
R/. Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer: **(STAND)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

FOURTH PART: THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Cantor sings the Offertory Antiphon:

The right hand of the Lord* doeth valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord hath exalteth me;
I shall not die, but shall live,
and declare the works of the Lord, alleluia.

If the Antiphon has finished before the priest has offered the Gifts of Bread and Wine, please join in the response to the prayers:

Blessed be God for ever.

While many people habitually stand to sing the hymn as the Altar and the Gifts are prepared it is customary to remain seated and then to STAND for:

Pray brethren that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the
praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his Church.**

The priest says the Prayer over the Gifts to which all respond: Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

R/. The Lord be with you
and also with you.

R/. Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

R/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The priest sings a Eucharistic Preface appropriate to the celebration:
all join in the acclamation* **(KNEEL)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,
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 priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer of thanksgiving, recalling the command of Jesus Christ, 'Do this in memory of me.'

SECOND PART: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The lights in church remain out, and the people SIT holding their lighted candles (which remain alight until the conclusion of the Gospel Reading), while the priest addresses them:

Priest: Dear brethren,
now that we have begun our solemn Vigil,
let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God.
Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people
and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer.
Let us pray that our God may complete
this paschal work of salvation
by the fullness of redemption.

The First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis (1:1,26-31a)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Then God said,

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness;
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the birds of the air,
and over the cattle, and over all the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them, and God said to them,

"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it;
and have dominion over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the air
and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

And God said,

"Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed
which is upon the face of all the earth,
and every tree with seed in its fruit;
you shall have them for food.

And to every beast of the earth,
and to every bird of the air,
and to everything that creeps on the earth,
everything that has the breath of life,
I have given every green plant for food."
And it was so.

And God saw everything that he had made,
and behold, it was very good.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 102)

**R/. Send forth your spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!

R/.

You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age to age.
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than the mountains.

R/.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys:
they flow in-between the hills.
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
from their branches they sing their song.

R/.

From your dwelling you water the hills;
earth drinks its fill of your gift.
You make grass grow for the cattle
and the plants to serve man's needs.

R/.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
Bless the Lord, my soul!

R/.

Priest: Let us pray.
Almighty ever-living God,
who are wonderful in ordering all your works,
may those you have redeemed understand
that there exists nothing more marvellous
than the world's creation in the beginning
except that, at the end of the ages,
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R/. Amen.

for eternal life.

R/. Amen.

The Priest sprinkles the people with blessed water, while the following anthem is said by all:

**I saw water flowing from the Temple,
from its right-hand side, alleluia;
and all to whom this water came were saved
and shall say: Alleluia, alleluia.**

After the sprinkling the Priest returns to the chair where, omitting the Creed, he directs the Universal Prayer.

The Prayer of the Faithful

Priest: Let us pray with confidence to God our Father
who has raised Christ his Son from the dead.

Intercessor: Let us pray that the glorious light of Christ
may shine on all Christians
that they may live as those who believe
in the triumph of the Cross.....

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for those who have been baptised and confirmed
in the past year.....

Let us pray for those whom we love, both near and far.
May their lives be open to the glory of the risen Lord.....

Let us pray for all who suffer pain and anguish.....
May they reach out towards the healing wounds of Christ,
and be filled with his peace.....

Let us pray for those who have died in the faith of the resurrec-
tion, and those who have died without faith.
We pray for the souls of.....

✠ Rest eternal, grant to them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Priest: Father,
it is because of the resurrection of your Son
and through the power of the Holy Spirit
that we stand here to praise you.
Guide us in our life that we may be found worthy
to share in his resurrection,
for he is Lord, for ever and ever.

R/. Amen.

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The Priest addresses the faithful in these or similar words:

Dear brethren,
through the Paschal Mystery
we have been buried with Christ in Baptism,
so that we may walk with him in newness of life.
And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded,
let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism,
by which we once renounced Satan and his works
and promised to serve God in the Holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

Do you reject Satan?

I do.

And all his works?

I do.

And all his empty show?

I do.

Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty
Creator of heaven and earth?

I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?

I do.

And the Priest concludes:

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and bestowed upon us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord,

The Second Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis (22:1-2, 9a,10-13,15-18)

In those days:

God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!"

And he said, "Here am I."

He said, "Take your son,
your only-begotten son Isaac, whom you love,
and go to the land of Mori'ah,
and offer him there as a burnt offering
upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him,
Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order.

Then Abraham put forth his hand,
and took the knife to slay his son.

But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven,
and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

And he said, "Here am I."

He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad
or do anything to him;
for now I know that you fear God,
seeing you have not withheld your son,
your only-begotten son, from me.

And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked,
and behold, behind him was a ram,
caught in a thicket by his horns;
and Abraham went and took the ram,
and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

And the angel of the LORD
called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said,
"By myself I have sworn, says the LORD,
because you have done this, and have not withheld your son,
your only-begotten son,

I will indeed bless you,

and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven
and as the sand which is on the seashore.

And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies,
and by your descendants
shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves,
because you have obeyed my voice."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(From Psalm 14)

R/. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R/.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. **R/.**

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your hand happiness for ever. **R/.**

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, supreme Father of the faithful,
who increase the children of your promise
by pouring out the grace of adoption
throughout the whole world
and who through the Paschal Mystery
make your servant Abraham father of nations,
as you once swore,
grant, we pray,
that your peoples may enter worthily
into the grace to which you call them.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The Third Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus *(14:15-15:1)*

In those days:

The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me?"

Tell the people of Israel to go forward.

Lift up your rod,

and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it,

that the people of Israel may go on dry ground through the sea.

And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians

so that they shall go in after them,

and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host,
his chariots, and his horsemen.

And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD,
when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh,

to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea,
so that the chosen people,
set free from slavery to Pharaoh,
would prefigure the people of the baptized;

O God, whose Son,
baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan,
was anointed with the Holy Spirit,
and, as he hung upon the Cross,
gave forth water from his side along with blood,
and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples:
"Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"
look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church
and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit
the grace of your Only Begotten Son,
so that human nature, created in your image
and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism
from all the squalor of the life of old,
may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children
through water and the Holy Spirit.

And, lowering the paschal candle three times in the water, he continues:

May the power of the Holy Spirit,
O Lord, we pray,
come down through your Son
into the fullness of this font,

and, holding the candle in the water, he continues:

so that all who have been buried with Christ
by Baptism into death
may rise again to life with him.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R/. Amen.

Then the candle is lifted out of the water, as the people acclaim:

**People: Springs of water, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him for ever.**

be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily

THIRD PART: BAPTISMAL LITURGY

If there are Baptisms and/or Confirmations to take place the Order can be found on a separate sheet. If there are no baptisms then the order is as follows:

The priest goes with the ministers to the baptismal font taking the Easter Candle with him.

Priest: Dear beloved,
let us humbly invoke upon this font
the grace of God the almighty Father,
that those who from it are born anew
may be numbered among the children of adoption in Christ.

Blessing of Baptismal Water:

The Priest then blesses the baptismal water, saying the following prayer with hands extended:

O God, who by invisible power
accomplish a wonderful effect
through sacramental signs
and who in many ways have poured water, your creation,
to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit
in the first moments of the world's creation
hovered over the waters,
so that the very substance of water
would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood
foreshadowed regeneration,
so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water
would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham

his chariots, and his horsemen."

Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel
moved and went behind them;
and the pillar of cloud moved from before them
and stood behind them,
coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel.
And there was the cloud and the darkness;
and the night passed without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea;
and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night,
and made the sea dry land,
and the waters were divided.

And the sons of Israel
went into the midst of the sea on dry ground,
the waters being a wall to them
on their right hand and on their left.
The Egyptians pursued,
and went in after them into the midst of the sea,
all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

And in the morning watch
the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud
looked down upon the host of the Egyptians,
and discomfited the host of the Egyptians,
clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily;
and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel;
for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

Then the LORD said to Moses,
"Stretch out your hand over the sea,
that the water may come back upon the Egyptians,
upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen."
So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea,
and the sea returned to its usual flow
when the morning appeared;
and the Egyptians fled into it,
and the LORD routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.
The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen
and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea;
not so much as one of them remained.
But the sons of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea,
the waters being a wall to them
on their right hand and on their left.
Thus the LORD saved Israel that day
from the hand of the Egyptians;
and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore.

And Israel saw the great work
which the LORD did against the Egyptians,
and the people feared the LORD;
and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the sons of Israel
sang this song to the LORD, saying, *(the Responsorial Psalm follows)*

Responsorial Psalm *(from the Book of Exodus Chapter 15)*

R/. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

I will sing to the Lord glorious his triumph!
Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.
This is my God and I extol him,
my father's God and I give him praise.

R/.

The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.
The deep hides them; they sank like a stone.

R/.

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your glory you have crushed the foe.

R/.

You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.

R/.

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, whose ancient wonders
remain undimmed in splendour even in our day,
for what you once bestowed on a single people,
freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution
by the power of your right hand,
now you bring about as the salvation of the nations
through the waters of rebirth,
grant, we pray, that the whole world
may become children of Abraham
and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
We know that our former man was crucified with him
so that the sinful body might be destroyed,
and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.
For he who has died is freed from sin.
But if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.
For 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Great Alleluia

The Cantor sings:

Alleluia!

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,
for unto all ages, his mercy endureth

The Gospel Reading

This is that written in Matthew, Mark or Luke, according to the year in which the celebration is taking place.

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

R/. And also with you.

Year B

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark

(16:1-7)

R/. Glory to you, O Lord

When the Sabbath was past, 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 they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not

The Gloria in excelsis

Is said

**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

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, who make this most sacred night radiant
with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection,
stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption,
so that, renewed in body and mind,
we may render you undivided service.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R/. Amen.

The Eighth Reading – The Epistle

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (6:3-11)

Brethren:

All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might walk in newness of life.

The Fourth Reading

A reading from the Book of Isaiah (54:5-14)

Your Maker is your husband,
the LORD of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.
For the LORD has called you
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,
says your God.
For a brief moment I forsook you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.
In overflowing wrath for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting mercy I will have compassion on you,
says the LORD, your Redeemer.

"For this is like the days of Noah to me:
as I swore that the waters of Noah
should no more go over the earth,
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you
and will not rebuke you.
For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my mercy shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,
says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

"O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted,
behold, I will set your stones in antimony,
and lay your foundations with sapphires.
I will make your pinnacles of agate,
your gates of carbuncles,
and all your wall of precious stones.
All your sons shall be taught by the LORD,
and great shall be the prosperity of your sons.
In righteousness you shall be established;
you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm*(from Psalm 28)***R/. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.**

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

R/.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

R/.

The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing,
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever.

R/.

Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
surpass, for the honour of your name,
what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of their faith,
and through sacred adoption
increase the children of your promise
so that what the Saints of old never doubted
would come to pass
your Church may now see in great part fulfilled.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.**The Fifth Reading**A reading from the Book of Isaiah *(55:1-11)*

Thus says the Lord:

"Ho, every one who thirsts,
come to the waters; and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, merciful love for David.

Responsorial Psalm*(from Psalms 40 & 41)***R/. Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.**

My soul is thirsting for God
the God of my life;
when can I enter
and see the face of God.

R/.

These things will I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng wild with joy.

R/.

O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain
to the place where you dwell.

R/.

And I will come to the altar of God,
the God of my joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,
O God, my God.

R/.

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, of unchanging power and eternal light,
look with favour on the wonderful mystery of the whole Church,
and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation,
which you planned from all eternity;
may the whole world know and see
that what was cast down is raised up,
what, had become old is made new,
and all things are restored to integrity through Christ,
just as by him they came into being.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R/.**Amen.**

The Seventh Reading

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel (36:16-17a,18-28)

The word of the LORD came to me:

"Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their doings;

So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood which they had shed in the land, for the idols with which they had defiled it.

I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries; in accordance with their conduct and their deeds I judged them.

But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that men said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they had to go out of his land.'

But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel caused to be profaned among the nations to which they came.

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD:

It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name,

which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name,

which has been profaned among the nations,

and which you have profaned among them;

and the nations will know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you,

and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness's,

and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you;

and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my spirit within you,

and cause you to walk in my statutes

and be careful to observe my ordinances.

You shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers;

and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

Behold, you shall call nations that you know not,

and nations that knew you not shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

"Seek the LORD while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake his way,

and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on him,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,

and return not there but water the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I intend,

and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(from Isaiah 12)

R/. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

R/.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples,

declare the greatness of his name.

R/.

Sing a psalm to the Lord

for he has done glorious deeds,

make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

R/.

Priest: Let us pray.
Almighty ever-living God,
sole hope of the world,
who by the preaching of your Prophets
unveiled the mysteries of this present age,
graciously increase the longing of your people,
for only at the prompting of your grace
do the faithful progress in any kind of virtue.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The Sixth Reading

A reading from the Book of Baruch (3:9-15, 32-4:4)

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel;
give ear, and learn wisdom!
Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land
of your enemies,
that you are growing old in a foreign country,
that you are defiled with the dead,
that you are counted among those in Hades?
You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

If you had walked in the way of God,
you would be dwelling in peace for ever.
Learn where there is wisdom,
where there is strength,
where there is understanding,
that you may at the same time discern
where there is length of days, and life,
where there is light for the eyes, and peace.

Who has found her place?
And who has entered her storehouses?

But he who knows all things knows her,
he found her by his understanding.
He who prepared the earth for all time
filled it with four-footed creatures;
he who sends forth the light, and it goes,
called it, and it obeyed him in fear;
the stars shone in their watches, and were glad;
he called them, and they said, "Here we are!"
They shone with gladness for him who made them.
This is our God;
no other can be compared to him!
He found the whole way to knowledge,

and gave her to Jacob his servant
and to Israel whom he loved.
Afterward she appeared upon earth and lived among men.
She is the book of the commandments of God,
and the law that endures for ever.
All who hold her fast will live,
and those who forsake her will die.
Turn, O Jacob, and take her;
walk toward the shining of her light.
Do not give your glory to another,
or your advantages to an alien people.
Happy are we, O Israel,
for we know what is pleasing to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 17)

R/. You have the message of eternal life, O Lord.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **R/.**

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **R/.**

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **R/.**

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. **R/.**

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, who constantly increase your Church
by your call to the nations,
graciously grant
to those who wash clean in the waters of Baptism
the assurance of your unailing protection.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.