

The Easter Vigil

*The Vigil should begin after dark on Holy Saturday or before dawn on Easter Day.
Alternatively, it may take place on Saturday evening in a darkened room.
An unlit candle should be placed in a prominent position in the place where the Vigil is to take place.
The Vigil begins with these words.*

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 candle is lit.
These words are said.*

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

The Exsultet

The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) may be sung or said.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult all creation, around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let us sing and shout for joy,
echoing the song of all God's people.

Father almighty, with hearts and minds and voices,
we praise you through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has saved us by his death,
paid the price of Adam's sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.

For this is our Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

This is the night/day when you first saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery
and leading her safely through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin,
restored to grace and holiness,
and share the victory of Christ.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams
you made even our sin a happy fault.

Most blessed of all nights!
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, heaven is joined to earth
and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our solemn offering, our sacrifice of praise.
Grant that this Easter may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!
Amen.

The Vigil Readings

Some or all of these readings may be read.

*The reading marked * should be read.*

*The reading in **bold** must be read.*

Each reading may be followed by one of the prayers below.

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 *	<i>The Creation</i>
Genesis 3	<i>The Fall</i>
Genesis 22:1 - 18	<i>Abraham and Isaac</i>
Exodus 12:1 – 24	<i>The Passover</i>
Exodus 14:10 - 15:1	<i>Crossing the Red Sea</i>
Jeremiah 31:31 - 34	<i>The new covenant</i>

Genesis 1.1– 2.3

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.

Genesis 3

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.

Genesis 22.1-18

Almighty God,
whose chosen servant Abraham faithfully obeyed your call and rejoiced in your promise that,
in him, all the families of the earth should be blessed:
give us a faith like his,
that, in us, your promises may be fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.

Exodus 12.1-24

God our Father,
you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church
to proclaim his death until he comes:
may he nourish us by his presence and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All Amen.

Exodus 14.10-15.1

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.
All Amen.

Jeremiah 31.31-34

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
All Amen.

The Easter Acclamation

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

The Gloria

*The Gloria in excelsis is said or sung.
During the Gloria, the lights are switched on and the candles extinguished.*

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

This prayer is said.

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
All **Amen.**

The Readings

The following readings are read.

Romans 6:3-11
Psalm 114
Matthew 28:1-10

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows may follow here.

Almighty God, in baptism, you call us out of darkness into your marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Before you, we vow;

To reject the devil and all rebellion against you.
To renounce the deceit and corruption of evil.
To repent of the sins that separate us from you and our neighbours.
To turn to Christ as Saviour.
To submit to Christ as Lord.
To believe in Christ as the way, the truth and the life.

The Profession of Faith

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Grant Lord,
that we who are baptised 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 the merits of him who died, was buried and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make us perfect in every good work to do you will,
working in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight;
✝ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all,
now and evermore.
Amen.