



The Service of Light

[At Church or Home on Easter Eve at dusk]

Dear brothers and sisters 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 forever in God.

If you have access to a garden a new fire may be kindled in the garden in a brazier.

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. **All Amen.**

The Easter Candle may be marked here.

A child or young person can be asked to place the markings

Christ yesterday and today, X

the beginning and the end, X

Alpha and Omega, X

all time belongs to him, and all ages, X

to him be glory and power,

through every age and forever. X

All Amen. [See diagram]

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

All Amen.

The leader or young person lights the Easter Candle, saying

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

If in the garden the candle is taken into the house saying.

Or place the candle in the prayer corner in your home. Then individuals light their own candles or use the light on your mobile phone

The light of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

The EXSULTET

People say together

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!

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!

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 shout the long Amen!

An individual or leader may say the following or it can be divided up for different people to say

1st Person

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 him 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.

2nd Person

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 fathers, delivering the people of Israel from

their slavery, and leading them dry-shod through the sea.

3rd Person

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!

4th Person

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.



Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 36:25-28 [See Reading Sheet]

25 I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.26 A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.27 I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.28 Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Gloria in Excelsis

People may ring a bell or cymbals or bells on a mobile phone while they say the gloria together.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
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.**

Prayer *[Invite a person to read this prayer]*

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.

The Gospel [All Stand]

John 20:1-18

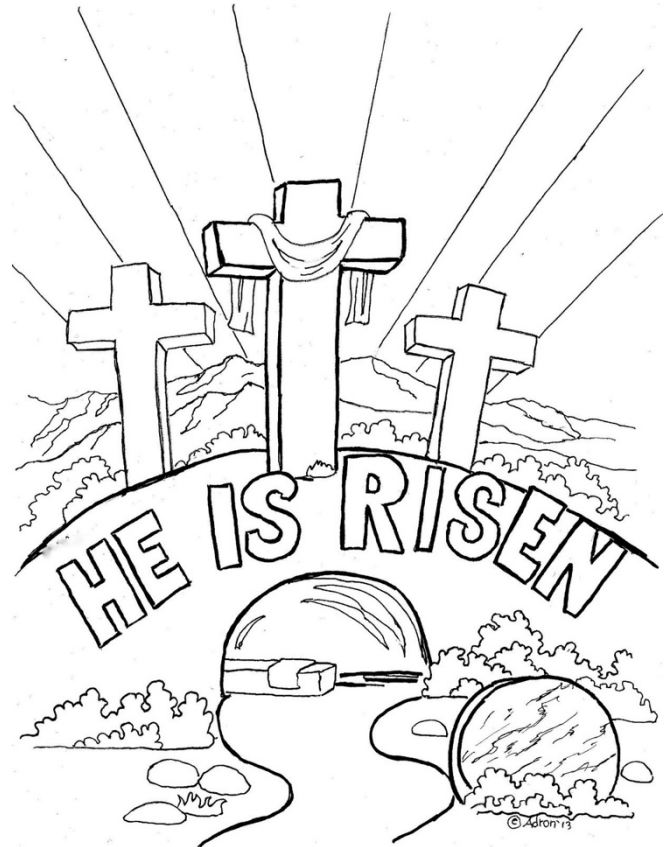
1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying

there,7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).17 Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Alleluia! Christ is risen

He is risen indeed. Alleluia



**People may now celebrate with a drink some
chocolate or special treat.
Alleluia!**