# The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night 3 April 2021

### PART ONE : THE SOLEMN BEGINNING OF THE VIGIL THE LUCERNARIUM

The Priest says

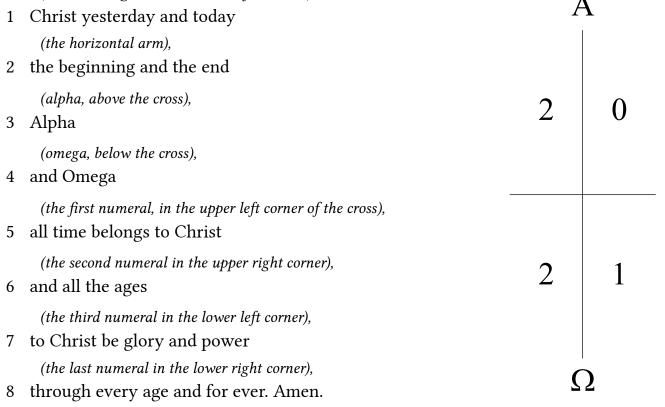
✤ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 words and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

The Priest cuts or traces a cross into the paschal candle with a stylus. The Priest then makes the Greek letter Alpha above the cross, the letter Omega below, and the four numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross, saying meanwhile

(while tracing the vertical arm of the cross),



When the cross and other marks have been made, the celebrant inserts five grains of incense in the candle in the form of a cross, saying

- 1 By his holy
- 2 and glorious wounds
- 3 may Christ the Lord
- 4 guard us
- 5 and protect us. Amen.

The celebrant lights the paschal candle, saying

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

# **The Easter Proclamation**

The celebrant and ministers go to their places. The deacon places the paschal candle on a stand in the middle of the gathering or near the lectern. The book and candle may be incensed. Then the Easter Proclamation is sung, all standing and holding lighted candles.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!	This is our passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.
Sound the trumpet of salvation! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness	This is the night when first you saved our ancestors: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea.
vanishes for ever! Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!	This is the night when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin. This is the night when Christians every- where, washed clean of sin and freed from
My dearest friends, standing with me in this holy light, join me in asking God for mercy, that he may give his unworthy minister grace to sing his Easter praises.	all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness. This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.
The Lord be with you. And also with you.	What good would life have been to us, had Christ not come as our Redeemer?
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and	Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.
<b>praise.</b> It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!	O Happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer!
	Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead! Of this night scripture says: "The night will be as clear as day: it will become my light, my joy." The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence,

 $\begin{array}{c}1\\4&2&5\\&3\end{array}$ 

# Exsultet jam angelica

brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride.	continue bravely burning to dispel the	
Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and we are reconciled with God!	darkness of this night! May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.	
Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our Evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.		
Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God.		

brings mourners joy: it casts out hatred. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven and

#### PART TWO : THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### Then the Priest says

Let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling how God saved humanity throughout history and, in the fullness of time, sent Jesus Christ to be our redeemer.

#### **First Reading**

Ex. 14:15-15:1a

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers."

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the Lord cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the Lord was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

Then the Lord told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the Lord hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the Lord had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the Lord and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

# Canticle

Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18

- 1 I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously: horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.
- 2 The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation: this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.
- 3 The Lord is a war-rior: the Lord is his name.
- 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea: his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.
- 5 Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?: Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendour, doing wonders?
- 6 You stretched out your right hand: the earth swallowed them.
- 7 In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed: you guided them by your strength to your holy dwelling.
- 8 You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession: the place, O Lord, that you made to dwell in,

the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.

9 The Lord will reign : for ever and ever.

# Prayer

Let us pray.

God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

# **Second Reading**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this:

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isaiah 55.1–11

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, 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 their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor 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 do not return there until they have watered 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 out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Canticle 2 Surely God is my salvation: I will trust and will not be afraid; 3 for the Lord God is my strength and my might: he has become my salvation. 4 With joy will you draw water: from the wells of salvation. 5 And you will say in that day, Give thanks to the Lord: and call on his name.

- 6 Make known his deeds among the nations: proclaim that his name is exalted.
- 7 Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously: let this be known in all the earth.
- 8 Shout aloud and sing for joy O royal Zion: for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 12.2-6

# Prayer

Let us pray. O God, by the power of your Word you have created all things, and by your Spirit you renew the earth. Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

# **Third Reading**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus the word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefore I poured out my fury upon them (because of the blood which they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols). I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations (wherever they came), they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: "These are the people of the Lord, yet they had to leave their land." So I have relented because of my holy name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came.

Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord God: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came. I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when in their sight I prove my holiness through you.

For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Psalm

Ps 42:2-3, 5bcd; 43:3-4

Ez. 36:16-28



Just as a lost and thirsty deer longs for a cool and running stream, I thirst for you, the living God, anxious to know that you are near. 2 Both day and night I cry aloud; tears have become my only food, while all around cruel voices ask,
'Where is your God? Where is your God?' <sup>3</sup> Broken and hurt, I call to mind how in the past I served the Lord, worshipped and walked with happy crowds singing and shouting praise to God.

4 Why am I now so lost and low?
Why am I troubled and confused?
Given no answer, still I hope and trust my Saviour and my God.

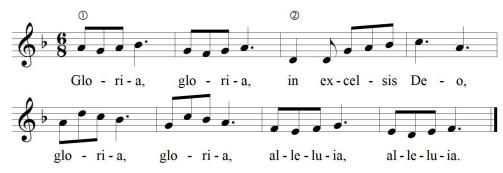
Paraphrase by John Bell b.1946 and Graham Maule 1958-2019

### Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in the paschal mystery you established the new covenant of reconciliation. Grant that all who are born again in baptism may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

Then the hymn Gloria in excelsis is sung, while bells are rung.



# Collect

Let us pray.

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ: renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

# Epistle

A reading from the letter of the apostle Paul to the Romans.

Are you not aware that we who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.

If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection. This we know: our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A man who is dead has been freed from sin.

Rom 6:3-11

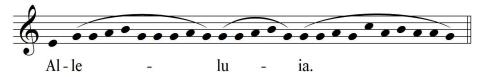
If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over him. His death was death to sin, once for all; his life is life for God. In the same way, you must consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

For the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

# The Great Alleluia

All rise, then the Priest or a cantor solemnly intones the Alleluia three times, raising the voice by a step each time, with all repeating it.



# Canticle

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us: so let us celebrate the feast.

Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.



Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: death has no more dominion over him. In dying, he died to sin once for all: in living, he lives to God.

# Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

See yourselves, therefore, as dead to sin: and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Christ has been raised from the dead: the first fruits of those who sleep.

# Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

For since by one man came death: by another has come also the resurrection of the dead, For as in Adam all die: even so in Christ shall all be made alive. *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!* 

# **Gospel Reading**

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

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

# ★ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel

The Easter Anthems

Mt 28:1-10

of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

For the gospel of the Lord,

### praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### PART THREE : BLESSING OF BAPTISMAL WATER

#### All gather at the font. Then the Priest says,

Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, which will be sprinkled upon us as a memorial of our Baptism. May he graciously renew us, that we may remain faithful to the Spirit whom we have received.

And after a brief pause in silence, the celebrant proclaims:

Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people who keep vigil on this most sacred night, and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption, graciously  $\blacksquare$  bless this water. For you created water to make the fields fruitful and to refresh and cleanse our bodies. You also made water the instrument of your mercy: for through water you freed your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the desert; through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through water, which Christ made holy in the Jordan, you have renewed our corrupted nature in the bath of regeneration. Therefore, may this water be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have received, and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and sisters, who at Easter have received their Baptism. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

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 renounce 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,

and life everlasting? **I do.** 

the resurrection of the body,

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 on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. **Amen.** 

### PART FOUR : THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

# Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts



Love's redeeming work is done; Fought the fight, the battle won: Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er! Lo, he sets in blood no more!

- Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Christ has burst the gates of hell; Death in vain forbids his rise; Christ has opened Paradise.
- Lives again our glorious King;
   Where, O Death, is now thy sting?
   Dying once, he all doth save;
   Where thy victory, O grave?
- 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Following our exalted Head; Made like him, like him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
- 5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
   Praise to thee by both be given:
   Thee we greet triumphant now;
   Hail, the Resurrection thou!

Charles Wesley 1707-88

When all is ready, the Priest says

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

### May the Lord accept our sacrifice for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.

#### Prayer over the Offerings

God of life and health, accept the offering of your holy people, and grant that we who are baptised into Christ may be perfected in your salvation, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.** 

### The Eucharistic Prayer

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, faithful God, always and everywhere, for with your only begotten Son and life-giving Spirit,

you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing

a universe of beauty and splendour,

bringing light from darkness

and order from chaos.

You formed us, male and female, in your image,

and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us.

You called us by name and searched us out,

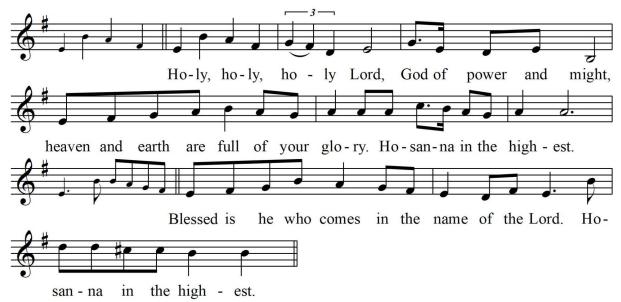
making a covenant of mercy,

giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you,

joining with your faithful people of every time and place,

singing the eternal song:



When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son, to be born of Mary.

Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight. You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way. While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.' He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.'

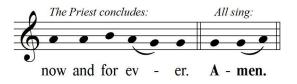
Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever. With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



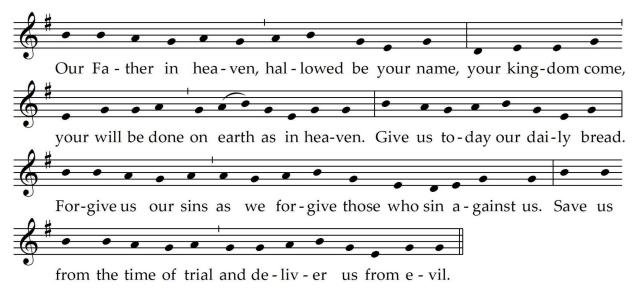
Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever. **Amen**.



# The Lord's Prayer

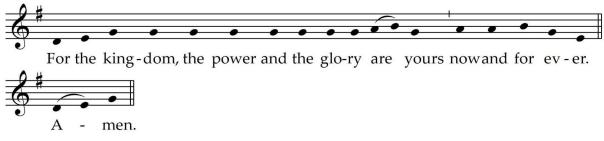
As our Saviour Christ has taught us we are confident to pray:



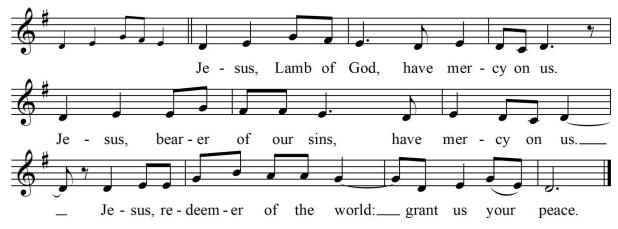
### The Priest continues alone

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.

And all make the prayer their own, singing



The celebrant breaks the bread. Meanwhile the following is said



# **Invitation to Communion**

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those 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.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All receive Holy Communion.

Communion will be administered in one kind only.

Communicants are asked to approach in single file, maintaining physical distance, returning to their places via the side aisles.

During Communion, the choir will sing anthems.

Those who are not to receive the Blessed Sacrament are invited to unite themselves with Jesus by making a Spiritual Communion.

#### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

### **Communion Antiphon**

The choir sings

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia.

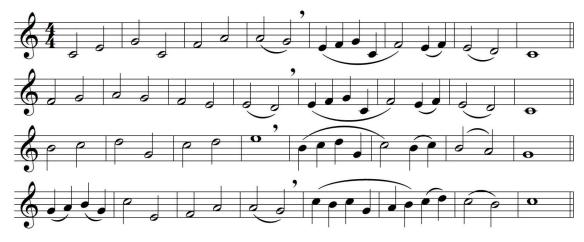
### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Giver of all,

we are nourished with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with the Spirit of love, and unite us in faith, that we may be witnesses to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.** 

### **Postcommunion Hymn**



Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once upon the cross Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia! unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia! who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured; Alleluia! now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia! St Alphonsus Liguori

1 Cor 5.7-8

# THE CONCLUDING RITE

### Blessing

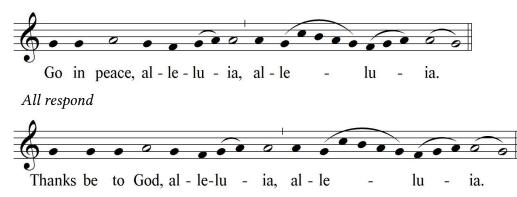
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

The God of peace,

who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, and the Son, ♥ and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

### Dismissal

The Priest, deacon or another minister sings



While Regina cœli is sung, the Priest and ministers move to the Shrine of Our Lady.

Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia! He whom thou was meet to bear, alleluia! As he promised hath arisen, alleluia! Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God,

Who gave joy to the world

through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we pray, that with his mother, the Virgin Mary,

grant we pray, that with his mother, the virgin M

we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.