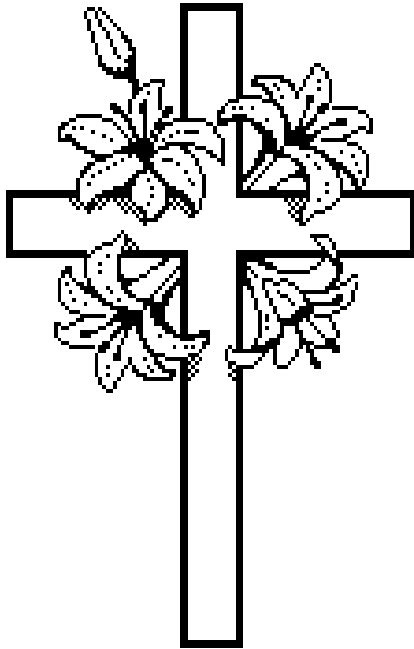


EASTER



Introduction: Excerpts from *A Poem for Easter*

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Reader 1: We are the people of God.
We are part of a story with roots deep in human
history.

Reader2: AS WE AWAIT THE RISEN CHRIST,
LET US REMEMBER OUR PAST
AND WHERE WE COME FROM;
WHO WE ARE AND THE WONDER OF GOD
AT WORK SINCE THE BEGINNING.

Reader 1: In the beginning when God created the heavens
and the earth,
the earth was a formless void and darkness covered
the face of the deep
while a wind from God swept over the face of the
waters

Reader2: AT THE VERY DAWN OF CREATION,
GOD'S SPIRIT BREATHED ON THE WATERS,
MAKING THEM WELLSPRINGS OF ALL
HOLINESS.

Reader1: In the days of Noah, God cleansed the world with
the waters of the flood.

Reader 2: SETTING A RAINBOW IN THE SKY,
GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH HUMANITY
AND MADE THE FLOOD A SIGN OF THE
WATERS OF BAPTISM
THAT MAKE AN END TO SIN
AND OFFER A NEW BEGINNING OF HOLINESS.

Reader1: Pharaoh ordered the death of male Hebrew children
but his mother hid Moses among reeds
and Pharaoh's daughter drew him to safety from
the water.

Reader 2: AND MOSES LED GOD'S PEOPLE
THROUGH THE WATERS OF THE RED SEA
TO BE AN IMAGE OF GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE
SET FREE BY GOD.

Reader1: The prophet Isaiah said to the people of Israel:
"I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

Reader 2: GOD HAS BECOME MY SALVATION.
WITH JOY YOU WILL DRAW WATER
FROM THE WELLS OF SALVATION ."

Reader1 And Isaiah called the people back to God:
"Come ! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters"

Reader 2: SEEK THE LORD WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND.
CALL UPON HIM WHILE HE IS NEAR."

Reader1: Ezekial spoke God's promise of new life:
"I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall
be clean....

Reader 2: A NEW HEART I WILL GIVE YOU,
AND A NEW SPIRIT I WILL PUT WITHIN YOU...
AND YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL
BE YOUR GOD. "

Reader 1: In Jesus, God has shown us the path of life.

Reader 2: HE HAS LIVED AS ONE OF US, THAT WE MAY
LIVE LIKE HIM.

Reader1: In the waters of the Jordan,
Jesus was baptised by John and anointed with the
Spirit.

Reader 2: IN BAPTISM, WE DIE WITH CHRIST
AND ARE BORN INTO NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST.

Reader 1: And we become part of the story - the story of
salvation.

Reader 2: THE JOURNEY OF A PEOPLE
AND THEIR GOD
WHO BRINGS LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS.

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Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites believers throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.
This is the Passover of Jesus Christ.

Through light and word, through water, bread and wine we
celebrate the new life that Christ shares with us. (NZ prayer book)

The fire is lit.

Holy God,
you gave your Name to Moses from the burning bush.
By the blessing of this new fire,
bring us to stand with awe on this holy ground,
our eyes alight with the glory we have seen in Christ,
and our hearts aflame with resurrection joy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The presider marks a cross and traces Alpha and Omega and the numerals of the current year on it

Jesus Christ yesterday and today
The beginning and the end
Alpha and Omega
All time belongs to Christ
And all the ages
To Christ be glory and power
Through every age forever

Insert five nails, at extremities of arms of the cross
By his holy and glorious wounds
May Christ our Lord guard us and keep us

The Paschal candle is lit and the presider says

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

The minister takes the Paschal candle, lifts it high and says

The Light of Christ **Thanks be to God**

Congregation to light their candles from the Paschal candle.

The Paschal candle is carried to its stand in the church with the congregation following. The lights and candles in the sanctuary are lit.

Hymn:

**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 light is here!**

**Sing Church of God! Exalt 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 loud Amen!**

(Tune: Woodlands AHB 109 or TiS 161)

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew**
chapter **28** beginning at verse 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

This is the gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon

The Blessing of the Water of Baptism

The priest comes to the place where the water for baptism is

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Your Holy Spirit moved over the waters at the beginning of creation. Through water you led your people out of slavery into freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit.

By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Jesus has set us free from sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, + in blessing, that this water may be a sign of our new birth in baptism. May we continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. **Amen**

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Dear friends,
through the Paschal mystery,
we have been buried with Christ in his baptism,
so that we may rise with him to new life.

Now that our Lenten observance is ended,
Let us reaffirm the promises we made in baptism.

Do you turn to Christ?
Do you repent of your sins?
Do you renounce evil?

I do.

I ask you to reaffirm as yours the faith of the Church.

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe in one God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Will you each, by God's grace,
strive to live as a disciple of Christ,
loving God with your whole heart,
and your neighbour as yourself,
until your life's end?

I will with God's help.

God our creator, Rock of our salvation,
has given us new birth by water and the Spirit,
and forgiven our sins through Jesus Christ our Lord.
May God keep us faithful to our calling
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Water is sprinkled over the people

Prayers

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, as we rejoice this day

we remember your words to the disciples 'Peace be unto you'.

We pray for peace in our world,

that we may rise above all that would cause strife and conflict,
that your victory over the powers of evil may be allowed to
work in your world.

Christ Jesus, risen in glory,

scatter the darkness from our hearts and from your world.

Risen Lord, as you appeared to Mary in the garden,

to the disciples in the Upper Room,

to the travellers on the road to Emmaus,

be known among us.

Christ be in our homes, in our work and in our journeying.

Risen Lord, let us walk in your presence and peace.

Christ Jesus, risen in glory,

scatter the darkness from our hearts and from your world.

We remember before you all who walk in darkness and fear,

all who are weighed down, all who are heavily laden.

We continue to pray for all who are affected by COVID-19,

through illness or isolation or anxiety.

We pray for all who have lost hope,

for all who are ill

for those who are approaching death

that they may know your living presence with them.

Christ Jesus, risen in glory,

scatter the darkness from our hearts and from your world.

We rejoice in the glory of our Risen Lord
and of all your saints
who have shared in your triumph over the grave and death.
We pray today for our loved ones departed,
that they may rejoice in the glory of your presence.

Christ Jesus, risen in glory,
scatter the darkness from our hearts and from your world.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us
to 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 for ever. Amen.**

Christ is risen. Alleluia

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

Hymn: 362 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

Loving God,

we thank you for this world of wonder and delight.

You have given it to us to care for,

so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that when we turned away from you,

you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us,

and bring us back to you.

He showed us how to love you

and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that on the cross

Jesus took away our sin,

all that keeps us from each other and from you.

He frees us from hate and fear,

from all that destroys love and trust.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that you gave us back the Risen One,
full of grace and glory.
Because he rose again, we go with joy wherever Jesus sends.
Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that in baptism you made us one with Jesus,
and you brought us out of darkness into light.
When you pour out your spirit
you fill us with the gifts we need to be your holy people.
Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise.

And so with everyone who believes in you,
with all the saints and angels,
we rejoice and praise you, saying:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends,
and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to 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 for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together
and made one bread:

**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

The gifts of God for the people of God.
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.

Special Covid-19 Guidelines: Please come forward to receive communion (bread only – gluten free is available). Maintain 1.5m separation as you move forward. Queue close to the pew – not in the centre of the isle – in one line. Sanitise hands. Receive the bread while standing and return to your seat.

While others are receiving communion you may wish to listen or quietly sing along to the communion hymn while remaining seated. This hymn is not announced - just join in as you wish at whatever verse you please

Post Communion Hymn: 642 This Day God Gives Me

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The priest says

Living God
make us apostles of the risen Christ
give us joyful hearts, words of hope
and grace to recognise the Lord Jesus when he meets us
wherever we are on the road

THE BLESSING

The blessing of the Living God,
who brings light out of darkness,
be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

The blessing of the risen Christ,
who sends you as apostles into all the world
be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

The blessing of the Holy Spirit,
who fills the church with joy and praise,
be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: Alleluia, alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia!

Hymn: 390 Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

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