

# EASTER Vigil at St Paul's



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

*Excerpts from A Poem for Easter*

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

Reader 2: 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: Ezekiel 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 Pascal 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 pascal 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 Pascal candle, lifts it high and says*

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

*Congregation to light their candles from the Pascal candle.*

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

**Song:** Yours be the glory (TiS 380)

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 24 beginning at verse 1.    **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the

dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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 pascal 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 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.

**God of the nations,  
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,  
have mercy on our broken and divided world.  
Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all  
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,  
that all races and peoples may learn to live  
as members of one family  
and in obedience to your law,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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 ask you to provide for all who have suffered through the floods.

We pray for all who continue to be affected by COVID,  
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.

Greeting of Peace

Christ is risen. Alleluia  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
The peace of the risen Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**

**Song:** 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 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.**

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.

All who trust in the Resurrected Christ this evening are welcome at the Lord's Table. The congregation will sing quietly: Alleluia, Alleluia (TiS 390)

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

Please stand to be blessed:

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!**

**SONG:** The Day of Resurrection (TiS 361)

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