

Holy Saturday

at St Paul's, Ashgrove



**Greeting and sharing the light of Christ in fire
and water; and in bread and wine!**

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 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 THE FLOOD BECAME A SIGN OF THE WATERS OF BAPTISM.

Reader1: Pharaoh ordered the death of male Hebrew children, but Moses' mother hid him 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 GOD MAY BE FOUND. CALL OUT WHILE GOD 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 so, we become part of 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,
people throughout the world
come together in vigil and prayer.

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

Holy God,
who gave your Name to Moses from the burning bush,
By the blessing of this fire,
bring us to stand with awe on this holy ground,
our eyes lit 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

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

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 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 John chapter 20 beginning at verse 1.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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 towards 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 round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' 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.

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

The Sermon

The Blessing of the Water of Baptism

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Do you turn to Christ? **I do.**
Do you repent of your sins? **I do.**
Do you renounce evil? **I do.**

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

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe in one God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

...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.**

Prayers

...that your victory over the powers of evil may take effect throughout 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.

...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.
God who made our home,

And made your home with us,
Yet often had no place to lay your head,
Have mercy today on all who have no home.
Provide shelter and protection,
A future and a hope,
To all whose beds tonight will be unsafe, unstable or exposed.
Grant wisdom and compassion,
To everyone with power or resources
To provide housing solutions,
So that all may live in peace
And share with equity and thanksgiving
The good things you provide
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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.
We look forward to rejoicing with them 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**

Song: Jesus Christ is Risen Today (TiS 362)

...and the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever

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.

...Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

...Restoring all that was broken and reviving all that was in the power of death.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

...to empower us to live into our calling.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who has ever basked in your light,
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.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

...Do this in remembrance of me.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...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.

Absolutely everyone who trusts in the Resurrected Christ this evening is welcome at the Lord's Table.

...In the place of grief, and in the place of resurrection.

Most loving God,

you send us into the world you love.

**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit**

Please stand to be blessed:

Go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord: Alleluia, alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia!

Song: The Day of Resurrection (TiS 361)