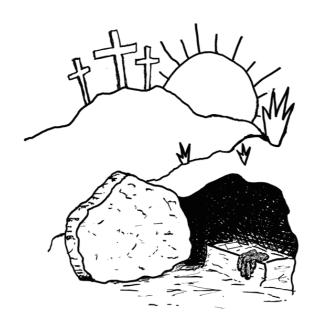
# Holy Trinity

# Headington Quarry



Easter Vigil and

First Eucharist of Easter

#### Introduction

The oldest feature of the celebration of Easter is a vigil of watching and waiting, which in early times the church kept throughout the night, meditating on the mighty acts of God in the scriptures, and praying until dawn, when Christ's resurrection was acclaimed.

We begin the service outside the church by lighting the new fire, from which we light the new Easter candle. We all follow the deacon into the totally dark church proclaiming "The Light of Christ". The dramatic experience of seeing the single flame light up a dark church is very moving in the way it signifies how the light of Christ can conquer all darkness.

The "Exsultet", the ancient proclamation of Easter is sung by the deacon and we then take part in the vigil of readings and sung responses, this year exploring the theme of renewal.

Finally "Christ is risen!" is proclaimed and the church erupts in sound and light as we joyfully sing the Gloria once again. After hearing the Easter gospel reading, we gather round the font, renew our baptismal vows and are sprinkled with water from the font.

Finally we celebrate our first Easter Eucharist with a sense of so much greater joy, having walked with Christ though all the stages of his passion through the week.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory; Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!

Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world! Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

# The Service of Light

The ministers go in silence to the main entrance, the deacon carrying the unlit Easter Candle.

All stand and face the ministers. The presiding minister says:

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 for ever in God

## Blessing of the fire

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light, + make this new fire holy set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# **Marking of the Paschal Candle**

#### The Paschal candle is blessed

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. **Amen**  The candle is lowered to touching height and the five 'nails' are inserted

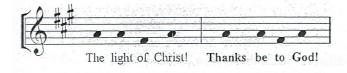
By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. **Amen** 

The president lights the Easter candle, saying

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

The congregation enter the building and take their place, turning to face the entrance. All lights are turned off.
The deacon enters the building carrying the candle, followed by the other ministers, and they pause at the start of the aisle.

The deacon raises the candle and sings:



The procession of the Easter Candle moves to the centre of the building and then stops. The versicle and response are repeated, and the candles of those around are lit from the Easter Candle.

The procession continues to the front of the building and stops once more. The versicle and response are again repeated, the Easter Candle is placed on a stand by the lectern and all other candles are lit.

We sit or stand as the deacon or another minister sings the ancient Easter hymn of praise, the Exsultet.

#### The Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! O Universe, dance around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King! Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you! Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

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 thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices we should praise you,
Father almighty, the unseen God,
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has saved us by his death,
paid the price of Adam's sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.

For this is the Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

This is the night when you first saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery and leading her safely through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost; beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault.

Most blessed of all nights Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out, peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory; Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!

Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world! Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever! **Amen**.

# The Vigil

The president introduces the Vigil

As we await the risen Christ let us recall how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work that he has begun.

# Reading: Genesis 1:1-4

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. Then God said, "let there be light", and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

This is the Word of the Lord: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

# A Song of God's Greatness

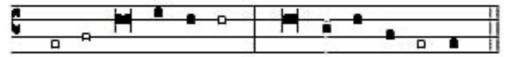


# Refrain: Send forth your spirit...

- 1 Bless the | Lord, O my soul :
- O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
- 2 You are clothed with majesty and <u>ho</u>-nour : wrapped in light as <u>in</u> a gar-ment.
- 3 The sun knows the time for its <u>se</u>-tting: You make darkness <u>that</u> it may be night.

Refrain: Send forth your spirit...





- 4 O Lord, how manifold are your <u>works</u>: In wisdom you have made them all; \* the earth is full <u>of</u> your creatures.
- 5 When you send forth your spirit, they are cre-<u>at</u>-ed: and you renew the <u>face</u> of the earth.
- 6 May the glory of the Lord endure for <u>ev</u>-er: may the Lord re-<u>ioice</u> in his works;
- 7 I will sing to the Lord as long as I <u>live</u>: I will make music to my God while I <u>have</u> my being.

Refrain: Send forth your spirit...

Psalm 104.1,2,21b,22a,26,32,33,35

**Collect** 

Almighty God, who have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in your children. through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

Please sit

# **Reading: Exodus 14:10-15:1a**

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told

you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

'I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.** 

## Please stand

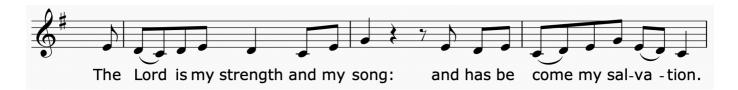
# The Song of Moses and Miriam



# Refrain: The Lord is my strength...

- 1 I will | sing to the Lord, who has triumphed <u>glor</u>-ious^ly: the horse and his rider he has thrown <u>in</u>-to^the sea.
- 2 The Lord is my strength and my <u>song</u>: and has become my <u>sal</u>-va-tion.
- 3 This is my God whom I will <u>praise</u>: the God of my forebears whom  $\underline{I}$  will^ex-alt.

Refrain: The Lord is my strength...





- 4 The Lord is a <u>war</u>-ri^or: the Lord <u>is</u> his name.
- 5 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in <u>po</u>-wer: your right hand, O Lord, shatters <u>the</u> en^e-my.
- 6 At the blast of your nostrils, the sea <u>cov</u>-ered^them: they sank as lead in the might-<u>y</u> waters.

# Refrain: The Lord is my strength...

- 7 In your unfailing love, O <u>Lord</u>: you lead the people whom you <u>have</u> redeemed.
- 8 And by your invincible <u>strength</u>: you will guide them to your ho-<u>ly</u> dwelling.
- 9 You will bring them in and plant them, O <u>Lord</u>: in the sanctuary which your hands have <u>est</u>-ab-lished.

Refrain: The Lord is my strength...

Exodus 15.1b-3,6,10,13,17

#### Collect

Lord God our redeemer

Who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Amen.

## **Reading – Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12**

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me round on the outside to the outer gate that faces towards the east; and the water was coming out on the south side.

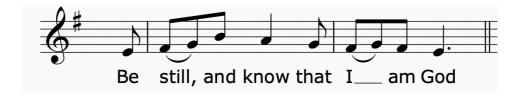
Going on eastwards with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, 'Mortal, have you seen this?'

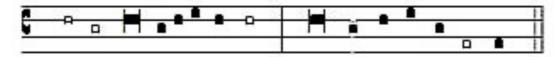
Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other. He said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God** 

Please stand

## A Song of God's presence





# Refrain: Be still, and know...

- 1 God is | our ref-<u>uge</u> and strength : a very pre-<u>sent</u> help in trouble;
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the <u>earth</u> be moved : and though the mountains tremble in <u>the</u> heart of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters <u>rage</u> and swell: and though the mountains quake at <u>the</u> tow-er-ing seas.

## Refrain: Be still, and know...

- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the ci-ty of God: the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her; \* therefore shall she not <u>be</u> removed : God shall help <u>her</u> at the break of^day.
- 6 'Be still, and know that <u>I</u> am God: I will be exalted among the nations; \* I will be ex-alt-ed in the^earth.'
- 7 The Lord of <u>hosts</u> is with us: the God of Ja-<u>cob</u> is our stronghold.

Refrain: Be still, and know...

Psalm 46.1-5,10-11

#### Collect

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation, the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

#### **The Easter Acclamation**

Please stand. The president says

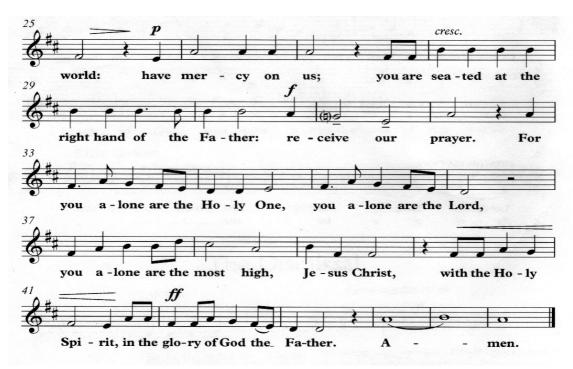
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

#### He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made! The Gloria in Excelsis is sung, during which the lights are switched on and the stone of the tomb is rolled away.

The people's candles are extinguished.





The Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell. Fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned, and the way to life stands open in our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please remain standing for the Easter gospel

# Gospel Reading John 20:1-9



I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

#### Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

#### He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John **Glory to you O Lord** 

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. 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.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Please sit

**Homily** 

Homily read at Easter Midnight in the Orthodox Church

If any be a devout lover of God, let them partake with gladness from this fair and radiant feast.

If any be a faithful servant, let them enter rejoicing into the joy of their Lord.

If any have wearied themselves with fasting, let them now enjoy their reward.

If any have laboured from the first hour, let them receive today their rightful due. If any have come after the third, let them celebrate the feast with thankfulness. If any have arrived after the sixth, let them not be in doubt, for they will suffer no loss.

If any have delayed until the ninth, let them not hesitate but draw near. If any have arrived only at the eleventh, let them not be afraid because they come so late. For the Master is generous and accepts the last even as the first. He gives rest to them who come at the eleventh hour in the same way as to those who have laboured from the first. He accepts the deed, and commends the intention.

Enter then, all of you, into the joy of our Lord. First and last, receive alike your reward. Rich and poor, dance together. You who have fasted and you who have not fasted, rejoice today. The table is fully laden: let all enjoy it. The calf is fatted: let none go away hungry.

Let none lament their poverty; for the universal Kingdom is revealed. Let none bewail their transgressions; for the light of forgiveness has risen from the tomb. Let none fear death; for the death of the Saviour has set us free. He has destroyed death by undergoing death. He has despoiled hell by descending into hell. Hell was filled with bitterness when it met thee face-to-face below:

filled with bitterness, for it was brought to nothing; filled with bitterness, for it was mocked; filled with bitterness, for it was overthrown; filled with bitterness, for it was put in chains.

It received a body, and encountered God. It received earth, and confronted heaven.

O death, where is thy sting? O hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and thou art cast down.

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen.

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.

Christ is risen, and life reigns in freedom.

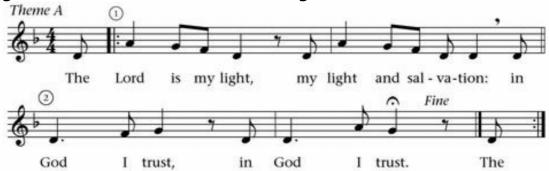
Christ is risen, and there is none left dead in the tomb.

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the first-fruits of those that slept. To him be glory and Dominion to the ages of ages. Amen.

Attributed to St John Chrysostom from Every, G., Harries, R., and Ware, K. (eds), Seasons of the Spirit (London: SPCK, 1984). Translation slightly altered in the interests of gender inclusivity.

## The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

We gather round the font as we sing:



## The President says

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the Easter mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his church. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God? **I reject them.** 

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil? **I renounce them.** 

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life? **I come to Christ.** 

May almighty God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you the strength to continue in the way.

## **Prayer over the Water**

Water is poured into the font.

Praise God who made heaven and earth, who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan. we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us. Saving God: give us life.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land. Saving God: **give us life.** 

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph. Saving God: **give us life.** 

+Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Saving God: **give us life.** 

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith, and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority, and power are yours, now and for ever.

Saving God: give us life.

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his son Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen

Water is sprinkled from the font. We sing a hymn.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me, Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Melt us, mould us, fill us, use us, Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Daniel Iverson, © 1935, Birdwing Music

## The president says

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized in your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.** 

# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you!' Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you **And also with you** 

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may share the peace as we return to our seats.

# **Hymn 211**

Now is eternal life, if ris'n with Christ we stand, in him to life reborn, and held within his hand; no more we fear death's ancient dread, in Christ arisen from the dead.

Man long in bondage lay, brooding o'er life's brief span; was it, O God, for naught, for naught, thou madest man? Thou art our hope, our vital breath; shall hope undying in death? And God, the living God, stooped down to man's estate; by death destroying death, Christ opened wide life's gate. He lives, who died; he reigns on high; who lives in him shall never die.

Unfathomed love divine, reign thou within my heart; from thee nor depth nor height, nor life nor death can part; my life is hid in God with thee, now and through all eternity.

George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959)

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen**.

# **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

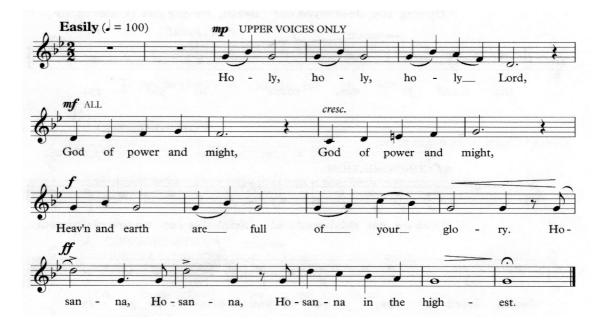
We lift them to the Lord.

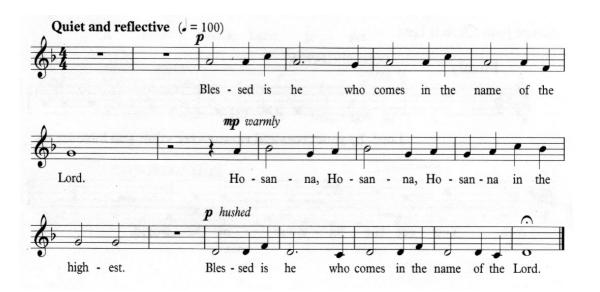
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and on this night of our redemption to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:





How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

#### Jesus Christ is Lord:

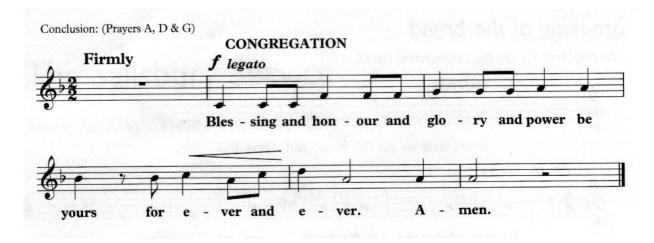


Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:



Please sit or kneel

## The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our saviour taught us, so we 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.

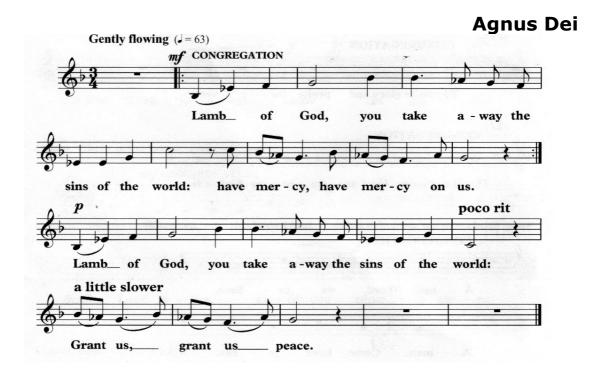
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

# **Breaking of the Bread**

Jesus says, I am the bread of life, whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.



# **Giving of Communion**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell. Fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned, and the way to life stands open in our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Hymn 203**

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King. To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen for ay: bring flowers of song to strew his way; let all the earth rejoice and say

Praise we in songs of victory that Love, that Life, which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing to-day with one accord the life laid down, the life restored:

Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)

#### The Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life. **Amen.** 

God the Son,
Who, in bursting from the grave,
has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.** 

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

The Dismissal

With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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