



# A Liturgy of the Word Easter Vigil Service

Date : 17 April 2022



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Sharmain James



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

**The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.**

## Introductory Rite

*(The Church remains in semi-darkness)*

The Easter vigil begins outside the church, where a fire is blessed by the celebrant. This new fire symbolizes the radiance of the Risen Christ dispelling the darkness of sin and death. The Easter candle is blessed and then lit. This Easter candle will be used throughout the season of Easter, remaining in the sanctuary of the church, and throughout the coming year at baptisms and funerals, reminding all that Christ is "light and life."

Once the candle has been lit, there follows the ancient and dramatic rite of the Lucernarium, in which the candle is carried by a priest through the nave of the church, itself in complete darkness, stopping three times to chant the acclamation 'Christ our light', to which the assembly would respond 'Thanks be to God'. As the candle is processed through the church, this symbolises the "Light of Christ" spreading throughout those gathered, the darkness is decreased.

After the candle has been placed on its stand in the sanctuary and the cantor has chanted the Exsulted (the Easter Proclamation), the lights in the church are switched on and the assembly extinguishes their candles.

As Church attendance is still limited to fifty percent capacity of our church building, we felt that we should still offer this online experience of Easter to those who will be unable to attend in person. Although we are apart, our celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord unites us all. We invite you to bring this experience into your home. Some have never been present at the Service of Light before, so we welcome this opportunity to share with you the beautiful symbolism in extracts from the service which will include the lighting of the Easter Candle, the Procession, the singing of the Easter Proclamation followed by the Liturgy of the Word with a Sermon.

## The Lighting and Blessing of The Easter Fire

Dear friends 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 when we venerate him in the mystery of his death and resurrection. Through the celebration of the Paschal Mystery in word and sacrament he renews our faith and hope, and gives us a share in his victory over death and in his eternal life with the Father.

*The fire is lit in silence. Then the Priest blesses it in these words:*

Father we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the Light of the world: sanctify this new fire and inflame us with new hope,

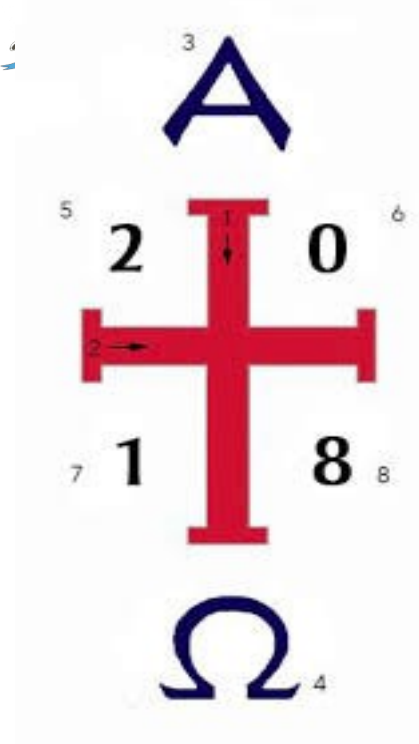
purify our minds by this Easter celebration

and bring us to the feast of eternal light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Easter Candle is brought before the Priest

*Five grains of incense stand for the five wounds, the cross for his death; Alpha and Omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet) is a title given to him in the book of Revelation; the date shows that he, the Lord of all time, sanctifies the present year.*



The service continues with the procession into Church with the lighted Paschal Candle.

Christ our light.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The Easter Proclamation / Exsultet is chanted*

*(pre-recorded, chanted by Ven Moses Thabethe)*

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the trumpet of salvation! *Refrain:*

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,  
radiant in the brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever! *Refrain:*

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! *Refrain:*

[V. The Lord be with you.  
R. And also with you.]

V. Lift up your hearts.  
R. We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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!





*Cantor:*

*Christ is our Passover feast, Christ is our Passover feast*

This is our Passover feast,  
when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain,  
whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night when first you saved our fathers:  
you freed the people of Israel from their slavery  
and led them dry-shod through the sea.

*Cantor: Christ broke the chains of death, Christ broke the chains of death*

This is the night when Christians everywhere,  
washed clean of sin  
and freed from 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.

*Cantor: Jesus Christ is our Redeemer, Jesus Christ is our Redeemer*

Father, how wonderful your care for us!  
How boundless your merciful love!  
To ransom a slave  
you gave away your Son.

O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam,  
which gained for us so great a Redeemer!

*Cantor: We are reconciled with God, We are reconciled with God*

The power of this holy night  
dispels all evil, washes guilt away,  
restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy;

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth  
and we are reconciled with God!  
Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night,  
receive our evening sacrifice of praise,  
your Church's solemn offering.

*Cantor: Lord God, accept our praise, Lord God, accept our praise*

Accept this Easter candle,  
May it always dispel the 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 mankind,  
your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Cantor: Amen, Amen, Amen.  
Amen, Amen, Amen.*

*The church lights are switched on..*



*The Gloria*

*Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe*

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| C: Udum' alube | A: KuNkulunkulu |
| C: Udum' alube | A: Kweziphezulu |
| C: Udum' alube | A: KuNkulunkulu |
| C: Udum' alube | A: Kweziphezulu |



- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| C: Kube nokuthula       | A: Emhlabeni            |
| C: Kube nokuthula       | A: Ebantwini bonke      |
| C: Nkosi Nkulunkulu     | A: Nkosi yasezulwini    |
| C: Nkulunkulu Baba      | A: Baba Somandla        |
| C: Siyakubabaza         | A: Siyakwazisa          |
| C: Siyakuguqela         | A: Siyakudumisa         |
| C: Siyakubonga          | A: Ngenxa yobukhosi     |
| C: Yobukhosi            | A: Bakh' obukhulu       |
| C: Nkosi Jesu Kristu    | A: Ndodan' ezelwe yodwa |
| C: Nkosi Nkulunkulu     | A: Mvana kaNkulunkulu   |
| C: Ndodan' kaNkulunkulu | A: kaNkulunkul' uYise   |
| C: Wena osusa           | A: Izono zomhlaba       |
| C: Sihawukele           | A: Sihawukele           |
| C: Sihawukele           | A: Sihawukele           |
| C: Sihawukele           | A: Sihawukele           |
| C: Sihawukele           | A: Sihawukele           |
| C: Amen, A-a-a          | A: A-a-a-a-amen         |
| C: Amen, A-a-a          | A: A-a-a-a-a-amen       |
| C: Amen, A-a-a          | A: A-a-a-a-amen         |
| C: Amen, A-a-a          | A: A-a-a-a-a-amen       |

### *The Collect*

Almighty God,  
 this night explodes with the radiance of the risen Christ:  
 set us ablaze with the power of your love  
 and propel us into the world  
 to live and proclaim the gospel of the living Lord;  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever **Amen**

### *The Word of God*

*The reading of Scripture has been an important part of vigils. Ordinarily, six readings from the Old Testament would follow, telling of God's acts in history, and each would be followed by verses from a psalm and a prayer. (However, for the purposes of this service, we will listen to the Psalm and only the Gospel will be read, please refer to the full readings of the day)*

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12: 2-6  
 Psalm 114  
 New Testament Reading: Romans 6: 3-11

### *Gospel Acclamation*

*(sung by Ven Moses Thabethe)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
 Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.  
 Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
 He is the King of creation. Refrain.





Spread the good news o'er all the earth.  
Jesus has died and has risen. Refrain.

We have been crucified with Christ.  
Now we shall live forever. Refrain.

God has proclaimed the just reward:  
Life for all men, alleluia! Refrain.

Come, let us praise the living God,  
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. Refrain.

*Gospel Reading*

by Rev. Sharmain James

Luke 24: 1-12

*The Sermon*

By Ven Moses Thabethe

*Hymn : The Price is Paid*

*sung by the choir*

Come let us enter in  
To all that Jesus died  
To make our own  
For every sin  
More than enough He gave  
And bought our freedom  
From each guilty stain

*The price is paid Alleluia  
Amazing grace  
So strong and sure  
And so with all my heart  
My life in every part  
I live to thank You for  
The price You paid*

The price is paid  
See Satan flee away  
For Jesus crucified  
Destroys his power  
No more to pay  
Let accusation cease  
In Christ there is  
No condemnation now

The price is paid  
And by that scourging cruel  
He took our sicknesses  
As if His own  
And by His wounds  
His body broken there  
His healing touch may now  
By faith be known

The price is paid  
'Worthy the Lamb' we cry  
Eternity shall never





Cease His praise  
The church of Christ  
Shall rule upon the earth  
In Jesus' name we have  
Authority

### *Prayers of Intercession*

Christ is Risen, and the power of His resurrection fills the world today with new life, hope and expectation and so we bring him all our needs.

Faithful God, all over the world, we gather as your church today, celebrating the Resurrection. Though language, race and nationalities may be different, we rejoice in the knowledge that our worship and our joy on the Day Of Resurrection make us one in the Gospel. We pray that The Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen our Province, our Diocese and all our parishes in mission and service, praying that day by day we may grow in love for you and for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Mighty God, we pray for the leaders of the nations of the world that they may give priority to those with the greatest need in the distribution of the world's basic resources. We especially pray on this special day, for peace in the world and for countries where there is war and conflict.

We remember today those involved in the fight against terror around the world and for all service personnel in active duty around the world. May you bring comfort to their families during this time.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, at this joyful Eastertide we pray for our families and friends, here and abroad, praying especially for those joining us here in Bryanston during the Easter Holidays. We thank you for modern communication systems which bring our loved ones so close even when we are separated by great distances. May we always feel your loving embrace and your comforting companionship. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Creator God, we pray for those who are in need and ask you to look with pity on those who suffer. We pray for the broken-hearted, for the sick, for the lonely, that your very presence would comfort them in their time of need. We especially pray for your indwelling presence on all those within our parish community who have asked for our prayers. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we pray that those who have recently died may one day share in the promise of new life won for us all by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ and his triumph over death and the grave.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Faithful God, as we go out into the world we pray that we may reflect your love in our families, our church and our community; so that the world can witness that we are followers of Christ and draw others into his loving care.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the Kingdom  
And all the power and the glory, forever. **Amen**





### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Living God, we worship you today with joy in our hearts and thanksgivings on our lips. When the powers of evil had done their worst, crucifying your Son, and burying him in death, you raised him to life again: an act of power giving hope to the world. Lord Jesus, we rejoice that death could not keep you in its grip; that you were raised to life, alive for evermore. You greeted your friends and now you stand among us in your risen power. Spirit of God, you are always giving life to the people of God, giving birth to children of God. Remodel us in the image of Jesus, fill us with his love and enable us with his risen power, that we might be faithful to this way, used by you in the redeeming of your world.

**Amen.**

### Final Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### Dismissal

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

### Recessional Hymn

1 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!

2 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!

3 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!

### Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution

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Keep connected on our various social media platforms with daily prayers, motivations and much more.



#### E.F.T

**St Michael's Church Bank**  
 Standard Bank (051001)  
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#### SNAP SCAN



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#### Acknowledgements:



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