

The Vigil of Easter

The Vigil of Easter

Notes

The Vigil begins either with (a) the Liturgy of the Word (Part I) or (b) the Liturgy of the Light.

If the Liturgy of the Word (Part I) follows the Liturgy of the Light, then the whole Liturgy of the Vigil takes place either after sunset on Holy Saturday or before dawn on Easter morning.

If the Liturgy of the Word (Part I) is celebrated before the Liturgy of the Light, however, the Liturgy of the Word (Part I) may begin at any time after Morning Prayer on Holy Saturday. Readings may be separated by periods of silence or of activity, such as preparing the church for the celebration of Easter. The Liturgy of the Light does not then begin until after sunset on Holy Saturday or before dawn on Easter morning.

The Liturgy of the Light should, weather-permitting, take place outside. A cemetery or memorial garden is a particularly appropriate venue, giving vivid expression to the Christian belief that those who are united with Jesus in his death will share his risen life. A brazier or other container in which a fire can safely be lit (and left untended) is needed, in which a suitable quantity of combustible materials should be prepared in advance. The Paschal Candle should be of substantial proportions, and prepared with the appropriate symbols. Traditionally, a cross is incised into the candle. Above and below the cross are inscribed the Λ and Ω (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet). In the four quarters are traditionally inscribed the numerals of the year in Arabic characters. Incisions should be prepared at the four points of the cross and at the intersection to receive the incense grains, symbols of the five wounds of Christ. A stand of appropriate

height and stability should be prepared for the Paschal Candle inside the church.

Once the Paschal Candle has been lit from the Easter fire it is carried into the church, escorted by the congregation bearing candles which are lit during this procession. The candles are part of the rite and not an optional extra. This is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord (Ex 12. 42), in which, following the Gospel admonition (Lk 12. 35-37), the faithful, carrying lighted lamps in their hands, should be like those looking for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find them awake and have them sit at his table. The Liturgy of the Light concludes with the Easter Proclamation, sometimes known as the *Exultet* or *Exsultet*.

The Easter Vigil has since the earliest centuries of the Church been recognised as a particularly appropriate occasion for the administration of Baptism, and, at some times and in some places, the only such occasion. Christ's Passover and ours are therefore given full expression when the sacrament of baptism is celebrated at the Vigil of Easter. Even if there are no candidates for baptism, the Baptismal Prayer over the waters of the font should take place. For practical reasons, however, the Vigil may not be the opportune time for infant baptism. The rite of Renewal of Baptismal Promises is a more recent practice, and one which may also appropriately be conducted at different times in the year, not least at Pentecost.

The Vigil of Easter appropriately concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist. If this is not possible, the Liturgy of the Light is followed by the Liturgy of the Word (Part II), and the Intercessions, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Peace, and Dismissal (pp. 30-31). The Bishop will make arrangements for the congregation to receive Easter Communion.

THE VIGIL OF EASTER – OUTLINE OF THE RITE (ORDER A)

I THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (PART I)

Address
Readings
Psalms
Prayers

IIA THE LITURGY OF THE LIGHT

Address
The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle
Procession
The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

IIB THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (PART II)

Gloria in excelsis
Collect
Reading
Alleluia†
Psalm
Gospel
Sermon†

III LITURGY OF BAPTISM

Introduction
Blessing of Baptismal Water
Rite of Baptism†
Rite of Affirmation†
Renewal of Baptismal Promises
Sprinkling
Intercession†
Peace
[Conclusion]

IV THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Taking of the Bread and the Wine
The Great Thanksgiving
The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine
Thanksgiving and Sending Out

THE VIGIL OF EASTER – OUTLINE OF THE RITE (ORDER B)

I THE LITURGY OF THE LIGHT

Address
The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle
Procession
The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

IIA THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (PART I)

Address
Readings
Psalms
Prayers

IIB THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (PART II)

Gloria in excelsis
Collect
Reading
Alleluia†
Psalm
Gospel
Sermon†

III LITURGY OF BAPTISM

Introduction
Blessing of Baptismal Water
Rite of Baptism†
Rite of Affirmation†
Renewal of Baptismal Promises
Sprinkling
Intercession†
Peace
[Conclusion]

IV THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Taking of the Bread and the Wine
The Great Thanksgiving
The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine
Thanksgiving and Sending Out

The Vigil of Easter

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (PART I)

In this Vigil eight readings are provided, namely, six from the Old Testament (Part I) and two from the New (the Epistle and Gospel, Part II). The character of the Vigil calls for an extended period of time. So that the true nature of the Vigil may be preserved, as many of the readings from the Old Testament as possible should be read. Nevertheless, where pastoral circumstances demand it, the number of readings from the Old Testament may be reduced. A minimum of three Old Testament readings should be chosen. The reading from Exodus 14 is always to be used. Each reading is followed by a psalm (or other suitable canticle, anthem or hymn), a time of silence, and the prayer appointed for that reading.

The clergy and congregation gather in silence.

If the Liturgy of the Word (Part I) immediately precedes the Liturgy of the Light and the Eucharist, as part of the same service, the clergy should vest as for the Eucharist.

The Presiding Celebrant begins the Vigil.

Address

Dear Friends in Christ,
let us begin our solemn Vigil.

[This is the night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life.]*

Throughout the world the Church gathers in prayer,
reflecting on holy Scripture as we await the dawn of Easter.

Let us listen attentively to the word of God,
recalling how again and again God saved the chosen people
and, in the fullness of time,
sent the only-begotten Son to be our Redeemer.

* Omit if the Vigil begins during daylight on Holy Saturday.

If the Liturgy of the Word (Part I) takes place as a separate service, the Collect for Holy Saturday is used here. Otherwise it is omitted.

[The Collect for Holy Saturday

O God, creator of heaven and earth:
as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb,
and rested on this holy Sabbath;
so may we await with him the coming of the third day,
and rise with him to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who now lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen.**]

First Reading

Genesis 1. 1-2.4a

Psalm

Psalm 104. 1-7

Prayer

O God,
who wondrously created
and yet more wondrously restored our human nature:
enlighten our hearts and minds
to resist the selfish distractions of sin
and so be made worthy to reach
the endless joys of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Second Reading

Genesis 7. 1-5,11-18; 8. 6-19; 9. 8-13

Psalm

Psalm 36

Prayer

Grant, O Lord,
that we who are baptised into the death of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Third Reading

Genesis 22. 1-18

Psalm

Psalm 16. 7-12

Prayer

Almighty God,
whose chosen servant Abraham
faithfully obeyed your call
and rejoiced in your promise
that, in him, all the families of the earth should be blessed:
give us a faith like his,
that, in us, your promises may be fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth Reading

Exodus 14. 10-31; 15. 20-21

Canticle

Exodus 15. 1b-13, 17-18 (The Song of Moses)

Prayer

O God,
whose marvellous deeds of old
cast their light on our present times,
and by the power of whose right hand
your chosen people was delivered
from slavery under Pharaoh,
to signify the saving of all the nations
through the waters of rebirth:
grant that the whole world
may be counted among the offspring of Abraham,
and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fifth Reading

Isaiah 66. 6-16

Psalm

Psalm 113

Prayer

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless
till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts
and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sixth Reading

Ezekiel 36. 24-8

Psalm

Psalm 42. 1-7

Prayer

Almighty God,
grant that as we keep the Paschal Feast,
alight with desire for your kingdom,
we may thirst in faith
for the well-spring and fountain of life,
our Lord Jesus Christ your Son;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE LIGHT

The congregation gathers at the place outside the church where a blazing fire has been prepared. The clergy enter the gathering in silence (the Deacon) bearing the Paschal Candle.

Where a fire cannot be lit, the blessing of fire is adapted to the circumstances. When the congregation is gathered in the church, the Presiding Celebrant comes to the door of the church (with the other clergy and ministers, the Deacon) carrying the Paschal Candle. The people turn to face the Presiding Celebrant. The address takes place; then fire is blessed and the candle is prepared.

If this Liturgy forms the first part of the Vigil of Easter, the Presiding Celebrant addresses the congregation as follows:

Address

Dear friends in Christ,
let us begin our solemn Vigil.

On this most holy night
when our Saviour Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
we gather, with all the Church throughout the world,
to watch and pray.

This is the Passover of Jesus Christ.

Through light and word,
through water, bread and wine,
let us celebrate the new life that Christ shares with us.

If the Liturgy of the Word (Part I) has already been celebrated, then the Presiding Celebrant addresses the congregation as follows.

Dear Friends in Christ,
we have heard holy Scripture speak of God's saving work in
the world,
and of God's promises for our salvation.

In this most holy night,
in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
we celebrate the Paschal Mystery
through which we share in Christ's victory over death
and in his eternal life and reign with God our Father.

As we await the dawn of Easter, let us greet the light of
Christ's new day.

The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle

The fire is ignited in silence.

The Presiding Celebrant, if a Priest, blesses the fire:

Almighty God,
who gloriously raised your only-begotten Son from the dead:
sanctify this fire,
that it may be a sign of life and hope;
may we, who celebrate the resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
be set aflame with love,
and renewed in faith,
so that we may shine as a light in the world,
and glorify you in our lives;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[If the Presiding Celebrant is not a Priest, the following may be used:

Almighty God,
may this fire be a sign to us
of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead;
may we be renewed in faith, hope, and love,
and shine as a light in the world to your glory. **Amen.**]

The Presiding Celebrant may trace a cross in the Paschal Candle, Alpha and Omega, and the numerals of the current year, saying,

1. Christ yesterday and today
(tracing the vertical arm of the cross)
2. the beginning and the end
(the horizontal arm)
3. Alpha and Omega
(these letters, above and below the cross)
4. All time
(the first numeral, in the upper left corner of the cross)
5. and all ages belong to him
(the second numeral in the upper right corner)
6. to whom be glory and power
(the third numeral in the lower left corner)
7. through every age and for ever. Amen.
(the last numeral in the lower right corner).

If grains of incense are inserted into the candle in the form of a cross, the following may be said:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | By his holy | | | |
| 2 | and glorious wounds | | 1 | |
| 3 | may Christ our Lord | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 4 | strengthen us | | 3 | |
| 5 | and make us whole. Amen. | | | |

The Paschal Candle is lit from the Easter fire. The Presiding Celebrant may say:

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

The Procession

Carried aloft (by the Deacon), the Paschal Candle leads the congregation into the church.

At the door: The light of Christ.
All: **Thanks be to God**

The clergy light their candles from the Paschal Candle.

The Paschal Candle leads the congregation to the centre of the Nave.

All: The light of Christ.
All: **Thanks be to God**

The candles of the congregation are lit from the Paschal Candle. The Paschal Candle leads the congregation to where the stand for it has been prepared:

All: The light of Christ.
All: **Thanks be to God**

The Paschal Candle is placed on its stand (by the Deacon).

NOTE: Candidates for baptism would not use candles at this point. The candles are a sign of Christ indwelling the baptised; the candidates will receive their candles after their own baptism.

The Easter Proclamation

The Deacon or a competent cantor sings the Exsultet. If there is no competent cantor available, the congregation may sing the metrical version. Another appropriate expression of the Easter message may be used in place of 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,
All 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.

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.

Most blessed of all nights!
Evil and hatred are put to flight, sin is washed away,
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.

Metrical version of the Exultet

Exult and sing! O shining angel choirs!
Exult and dance, bright stars and blazing suns!
The first born of creation, Jesus Christ,
is ris'n in radiant splendour from the dead.

Rejoice, O awesome night of our rebirth!
Rejoice, O mother moon, that marks the months!
For from your fullness comes, at last, the day
when sin and death are robbed of all their power.

Arise then, sleepers, Christ enlightens you!
Arise from doubt and sadness, sin and death!
With joyful hearts and spirits set aflame,
draw near to sing this Easter Candle's praise!

We lift our hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
We praise you, God, for all your works of light!
We bless you for that burst of fire and flame
through which you first created all that is.

We bless you for the light invisible:
the fire of faith, the Spirit's grace and truth,
that light, the source of life, that stirs the heart,
and shines for ever on the face of Christ.

This is the night, most blessed of all nights.
You led your people through the foaming sea,
in love you led them with a cloud by day
and as a flaming shaft of fire by night.

O night that gave us back what we had lost!
O night that made our sin a happy fault!
Beyond our deepest dreams this night, O God
your hand reached out to raise us up in Christ!

10 10 10 10

(The tune 'Woodlands', is suggested, but others may be equally suitable.)

LITURGY OF THE WORD (PART II)

If the Eucharist is not to be celebrated, this order is followed until the conclusion (pp. 29–30).

The candles of the altar are lit and Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is sung by all, during which the bells of the church may be rung. The church lights are switched on.

Gloria in excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
(with God the Son, Jesus Christ,
and God the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

O God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection:
stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption
given to us in baptism;
that, being renewed both in body and mind,
we may worship you in sincerity and truth;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Epistle

Romans 6. 3-11

If there is to be a Baptism at the daytime Eucharist and not at this celebration, the reading from the three-year cycle may be used here instead.

- A *Colossians 3. 1-4*
- B *I Corinthians 15. 1-11*
- C *I Corinthians 15. 19-26*

Alleluia†

After the Epistle has been read, all rise, then the Priest may solemnly intone Alleluia three times. If necessary, this may be done by a cantor instead.

Psalm

Psalm 114 or 118, or an Easter hymn is sung. The response or refrain should be Alleluia.

Gospel

The Deacon proclaims the Gospel.

When it is announced:

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

At the end:

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

John 20. 1-18 may be used here; if so, the synoptic readings should be used at the daytime celebration.

A *Matthew 28. 1-10*

B *Mark 16. 1-8*

C *Luke 24. 1-12*

Sermon†

LITURGY OF BAPTISM

With Rites of Affirmation and Renewal

A hymn may be sung while the congregation and candidates gather at the Font. The Paschal Candle is taken from its stand (by the Deacon) and carried in procession to the Font. This section may be used at a celebration during day in addition, or instead of here, if circumstances require it.

The Presiding Celebrant says:

Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by whose great mercy
we have been born anew to a living hope:

All: **Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
from the dead.**

The Baptismal Prayer

The Presiding Celebrant, says:

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.

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Author of all being;
for on this *night/day* your only-begotten Son
passed through the waters of death,
and rose to new life, the firstborn of your new creation.

He that died upon the cross, was buried,
and descended to the dead;
he broke the chains of death,
and opened for us the gates of salvation.

As you delivered Noah from the waters of the flood,
and led the children of Israel through the Red Sea,
so you deliver your people from the waters of chaos.

As your Son, when he hung upon the cross,
gave forth water from his side along with blood,
so you grant us a well-spring of life.

Look therefore with love upon the face of your Church,
and unseal for us, and all the world,
the fountain of new birth.

The base of the Paschal candle is lowered into the water

Send down upon the waters of this font
and upon your people
your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lead those who are baptised
with Christ through the waters of death,
to be one with him in his resurrection;
and sustain your people by your Spirit
to bring hope and strength to the world.

The Paschal candle is removed from the water

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end. **Amen.**

Baptism

If there is to be no baptism, the Liturgy continues either with the rite of Affirmation (p. 23) or with the rite of Renewal of Baptismal Promises (p. 27).

God's Call

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the candidates (and their sponsors)

God is love. God gives us life.
In Christ God reaches out to us.
In Baptism God calls us to respond.
Do you accept this call?

Adult candidates respond:

I hear and accept God's call.
I ask for Baptism

Sponsors of infant candidates respond:

We hear and accept God's call to N.
We ask for Baptism

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the rest of the congregation:

God calls the Church to reflect Christ's glory,
in Baptism to declare his new life,
and in fellowship and mission to share it.
Do you accept this call?

All: **We hear and accept God's call**

Turning to Christ

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the candidates and their sponsors

The Christian life means
turning from evil and turning to Christ.
Do you renounce evil?

Answer: *I renounce evil.*

Do you repent of sin?

Answer: I repent of sin.

Do you turn to Christ?

Answer: I turn to Christ.

Will you follow Christ?

Answer: I will follow Christ.

Profession of Faith

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the whole congregation

Do you believe in God the Father,
who made the world?

All: I believe.

Do you believe in God the Son,
who redeemed humankind?

All : I believe.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to God's people?

All: I believe.

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the candidates and their sponsors

This is the faith of the Church.

The candidates and their sponsors reply:

This is our faith.
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The congregation responds:

Amen.

Commitment to Christian Life

The Presiding Celebrant addresses ADULT candidates

N., as a disciple of Christ,
will you continue in the Apostles' teaching
and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

Answer: With the help of God, I will.

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the sponsors of INFANT candidates:

NN., as those who will love and care for N.,
will you continue in the Apostles' teaching
and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

Answer: With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim the good news
by word and deed,
serving Christ in all people?

Answer: With the help of God, I will.

Will you work for justice and peace,
honouring God in all Creation?

Answer: With the help of God, I will.

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the whole congregation:

This is the task of the Church.

All: **This is our task:
to live and work for the kingdom of God.**

The Baptism

The Presiding Celebrant baptises the candidates according to local custom, saying:

N., I baptise you in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

The candidates may be clothed in white.

Anointing and Laying-on of Hands

The Presiding Celebrant anoints the candidates upon the forehead, making the sign of the Cross with the OIL OF CHRISM, and saying:

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism
and marked as Christ's own for ever

All: **Amen.**

The Presiding Celebrant lays hands on the candidates' heads, saying:

May the Spirit of God be in you,
wisdom and understanding keep you,
the power of God encircle you,
and God's truth lead you into freedom.

All: **Amen.**

Giving of Light

A candle is lit from the Paschal Candle, and given to each candidate or their sponsors. The Presiding Celebrant says:

N., the light of Christ
scatter the darkness from your heart and mind.

All: **Christ go before you to guide your steps.
Christ be within you to kindle your vision.
Christ shine from you to give joy to the world.**

Welcome

The Presiding Celebrant welcomes the candidates, saying:

N., God has received you by Baptism into the Church.

All: **We welcome you.
We will care for you.
We will share our faith with you.**

Affirmation of Holy Baptism for Confirmation and Renewal

If there has been no baptism, this rite follows on from the Baptismal Prayer over the waters of the font.

Presentation of the Candidate(s)

*The candidate(s) is/are introduced to the congregation by name.
The Presiding Celebrant may use these or similar words:*

Our *brother/sister* N. has come
to make a deeper commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ
by renewing *his/her* baptismal promises
and affirming *his/her* faith.
We pray for *him/her* and for ourselves.

Prayer

Eternal God, who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
keep your people, born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to their calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Turning to Christ

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the candidate(s).

The Christian life means
turning from evil and turning to Christ.
Do you renounce evil?

Answer: I renounce evil.

Do you repent of sin?

Answer: I repent of sin.

Do you turn to Christ?

Answer: I turn to Christ.

Will you follow Christ?

Answer: I will follow Christ.

Profession of Faith

If there has been no baptism, the Presiding Celebrant addresses the whole congregation. Otherwise this section is omitted.

Do you believe in God the Father,
who made the world?

All: I believe.

Do you believe in God the Son,
who redeemed humankind?

All : I believe.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to God's people?

All: I believe.

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the candidate(s).

This is the faith of the Church.

The candidate(s) reply:

This is our faith.
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The congregation responds:

Amen.

Commitment to Christian Life

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the candidate(s).

As disciples of Christ,
will you continue in the Apostles' teaching
and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

Answer: With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim the good news
by word and deed,
serving Christ in all people?

Answer: With the help of God, I will.

Will you work for justice and peace,
honouring God in all Creation?

Answer: With the help of God, I will.

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the whole congregation:

This is the task of the Church.

All: **This is our task:
to live and work for the kingdom of God.**

The Laying-on of Hands

The Presiding Celebrant says

God of mercy and love,
new birth by water and the Spirit is your gift,
a gift none can take away;
grant that your servants may grow
into the fullness of the stature of Christ.
Fill them with the joy of your presence.
Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of love, patience and gentleness,
the spirit of wonder and true holiness.

The Presiding Celebrant lays hands on each candidate in silence, then says:

Come, Creator Spirit, rekindle in N. your gifts of grace,
to love and serve as a disciple of Christ.

All: Amen.

Renew her/his life in Christ,
and bring to completion all that your calling has begun.

All: Amen.

Either continuing the laying-on of hands, or anointing the candidate with the Oil of Chrism, the Presiding Celebrant says:

Empower your disciple, N., to bring life to the world.

All: Amen.

After the laying-on of hands for all candidates, the Presiding Celebrant says:

Living God, sustain all your people
to be hope and strength to the world;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

This rite should be used only if there is no Baptism and/or Affirmation. After the Baptismal Prayer over the waters of the font, all stand, holding lighted candles in their hands, and renew the promise of baptismal faith.

Turning to Christ

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the congregation.

The Christian life means turning from evil
and turning to Christ.

Do you renounce evil?

All: I renounce evil.

Do you repent of sin?

All: I repent of sin.

Do you turn to Christ?

All: I turn to Christ.

Will you follow Christ?

All: I will follow Christ.

Profession of Faith

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the congregation.

Do you believe in God the Father, who made the world?

All: I believe.

Do you believe in God the Son,
who redeemed humankind?

All: I believe.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to God's people?

All: I believe.

This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith.

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Commitment to Christian Life

The Presiding Celebrant addresses the congregation.

As disciples of Christ,
will you continue in the Apostles' teaching
and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

All: **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim the good news by word and deed,
serving Christ in all people?

All: **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you work for justice and peace,
honouring God in all Creation?

All: **With the help of God, I will.**

This is the task of the Church.

All: **This is our task:
to live and work for the kingdom of God.**

Hymns or songs may be sung as the waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people. Alternatively, each member of the congregation may be invited to renew their commitment to Christ by going to the water and making the sign of the cross with it on their forehead.

Prayer

May Almighty God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,
and has bestowed on us forgiveness of all our sins,
guard us by his grace,
and grant us, when our earthly course is ended,
resurrection to eternal life,
through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions†

*Prayer is offered for the world and its people,
for those who suffer and those in need,
for the Church and its members.*

[Conclusion

If there is to be no Eucharist, the Liturgy ends as follows.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has 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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

or

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Let us go into the world in the joy of Easter,
sharing the peace of Christ with one another.
Let us share Christ's peace.

The sign of peace is shared.

The Lord be with you.
The Lord bless you.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.
In the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.]

The Peace

We meet in Christ's name:
Let us share his peace.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

Offering

Silence

or

As the grain once scattered in the fields,
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church
soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

or

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made:
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being.
Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world.

You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order
and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead,
proclaims the dawn of hope.
He lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us,
your breath is power
to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose,
freed by him who burst from the tomb
and opened the gate of life,
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

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.

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all,
for by the Cross eternal life is ours
and death is swallowed up in victory.

In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb
and changed the women's sorrow into joy.
From the Garden the mystery shone clear
that he whom they had loved and lost
is with us now, in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread,
speaking peace to the fearful disciples,
welcoming weary fishermen on the shore,
he renewed the promise of his presence
and of new birth in the Spirit
who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
recalling the night of Israel's release,
the night in which slaves walked free,
at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."
After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:
"Drink this, all of you.

This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by your Spirit's life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised
into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine

Breaking of the Bread

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

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has 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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

or

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Communion Song

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace

or

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us

Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace

Invitation†

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia.

Therefore let us celebrate the feast, alleluia, alleluia.

Communion

At the giving of the bread:

The Body of Christ given for you.

At the giving of the cup:

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

The Communicant replies **Amen.**

Thanksgiving and Sending Out

Sentence

We give you thanks, Lord, for you are gracious:
and your mercy endures for ever.

Prayer

Lord, you have nourished us with the Easter sacrament:
fill us with the spirit of your love,
and unite us in faith;
that we may be witnesses to the resurrection
and show your glory to all the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work;
working in you that which is pleasing and good;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal

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

