

A watercolor-style background in shades of blue and green, featuring a black cross on the left side.

ST NICOLAS'  
PARISH CHURCH

EASTER VIGIL  
&  
FIRST MASS OF EASTER

HOLY WEEK



2025

# The Vigil

*The ministers and people gather in the churchyard in silence.*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
Your steadfast love extends to the heavens  
and your faithfulness never ceases.  
Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom  
and strengthen our lives with your word,  
for you are the fountain of life;  
in your light we see true light.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*All*

Dear friends in Christ, this is the night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life. The Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling 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 he has begun.

## The Easter Fire

*The fire is lit*

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

**All**      **Amen.**

*The Incense pricks are inserted in the Pascal Candle*

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.

**All**      **Amen.**

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

**All**      **Amen.**

*The priest bearing the Pascal Candle enters the church, followed by the other ministers.*

*The priest bearing the Candle raises it and sings*

The light of Christ.

**All**      **Thanks be to God.**

*During which the congregation light their candles. The altar party process to the sanctuary.*

# The Exsultet

When the Easter candle has reached the Sanctuary a Server holds the Pascal candle. The candle is censed.

The priest sings the Exsultet.



Re-joice, hea-ven-ly pow-ers! Sing, choirs of an - gels!



○ U - ni-verse, dance a - round God's throne!



Je-sus Christ our King is ri - sen!



Sound the vic-to-rious trum-pet of sal-va - tion!



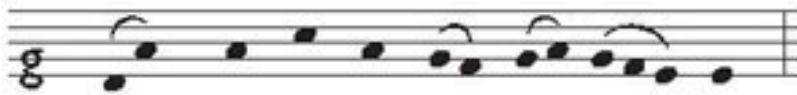
Re-joice, ○ earth, in glo-ry, revealing the splendour of your cre-a - tion,



ra-diant in the brightness of your tri-um-phant King!



Christ has conquered! Now his life and glo-ry fill you!



Dark-ness va-ni-shes for ev - er!



Re-joice, O Mo-ther Church! E-xult in glo-ry!



The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines u-pon you!



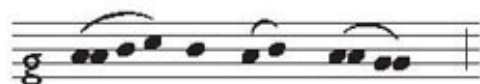
Let all God's peo-ple sing and shout for joy.



The Lord be with you.



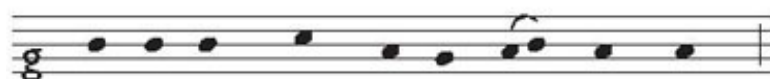
**R.** and al - so with you.



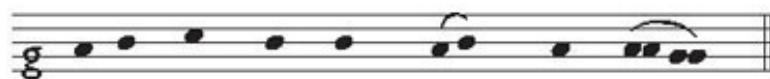
Lift up your hearts.



**R.** We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



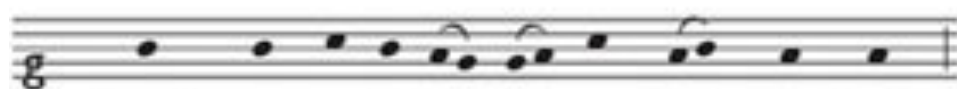
**R.** It is right to give thanks and praise.



It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voi-ces



We should praise you, Father almighty, the un - seen God,



through your on-ly Son, Je - sus Christ our Lord,



who has saved us by his death, paid the price of A - dam's sin;



and reconciled us once a-gain to you.



For \_\_\_\_ this is the Pass-ov-er feast,



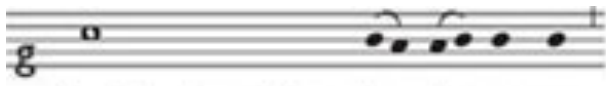
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain,



whose blood con-se-crates the homes of all the faith-ful.



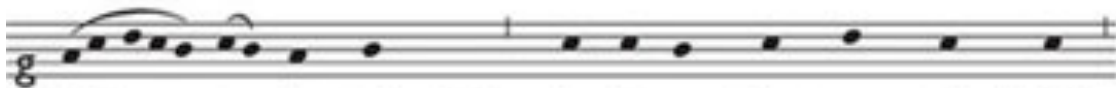
This \_\_\_\_ is the night [day†] when you first saved our an-ces-tors,



freeing Israel from her sla-ve-ry



and lead-ing her safe-ly through the sea.



This \_\_\_ is the night [*day*] when Je-sus Christ van-quished hell,



broke the chains of death and rose tri-um-phant from the grave.



This \_\_\_ is the night [*day*]



when all who believe in him are freed from sin



restored to grace and ho-li-ness, and share the vic-to-ry of Christ.

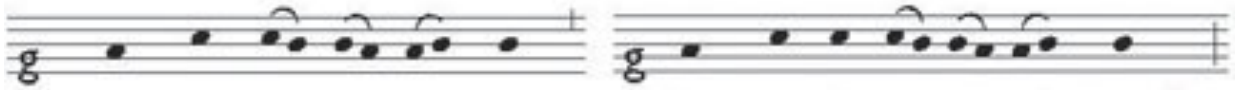




This \_\_\_ is the night [*day*] that gave us back what we had lost;



be-yond our deep-est dreams you made e-ven our sin a hap-py fault.



Most bless-ed of all nights! [*Crown-ing glo-ry of all feasts!* †]



E-vil and ha-tred are put to flight and sin is washed a-way,



lost innocence re-gained, and mourn-ing turned to joy.



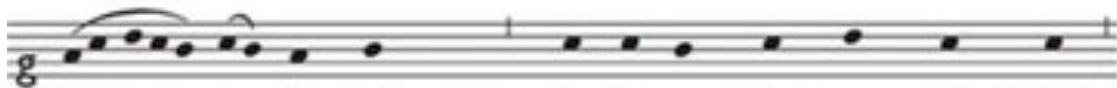
Night [*Feast* †] tru-ly blessed, when hatred is cast out,



freeing Israel from her sla-ve-ry



and lead-ing her safe-ly through the sea.



This \_\_\_ is the night [*day*] when Je-sus Christ van-quished hell,



broke the chains of death and rose tri-um-phant from the grave.



This \_\_\_ is the night [*day*]



when all who believe in him are freed from sin



restored to grace and ho-li-ness, and share the vic-to-ry of Christ.



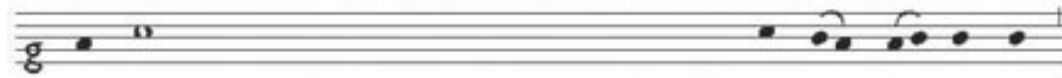
peace and jus-tice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth



and all cre-a-tion re-con-ciled to you.



There-fore, hea-ven-ly Fa-ther, in this our Eas-ter joy



ac-cept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's so-lemn of-fer-ing, ††



*this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your mi-ni-sters.*



**Glo-ry to you for ev-er.**



*As we gaze upon the splen-dour of this flame*



*fed by melting wax conceived by mo-ther bee,*



grant that this Easter Can-dle may make our dark-ness light.



For Christ the morning star has ri-sen in glo-ry;



Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns with-in us!



Christ sheds his peace-ful light on all the world!



Christ lives and reigns for ev-er and ev-er! **A - men.**

## Vigil Readings

*Priest*      *Genesis 1:1-2, 4a*  
Creator God,  
bringing light and form and beauty out of nothing,  
look upon us who stand  
upon the threshold of a new order,  
revealed in the resurrection of Christ,  
the new Adam, who restores us to life.  
*All*          **Amen.**

*All*          *Exodus 14:15-end*  
Liberating God,  
revealing your power in human history,  
look upon your people  
whom you save through the waters of baptism,  
and let them know again that you set them free.  
*All*          **Amen**

*All*          *Isaiah 66:6-16*  
Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us.  
When we face the dank darkness of death,  
nurse us at your bosom  
and enfold us in your arms of love  
until we can sing the songs of justice and peace,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.  
*All*          **Amen.**

*Jonah 1.1-2.10*

Living God,  
whose Son like Jonah looked to you for deliverance  
from the deep waters of death,  
reveal to us your salvation,  
as we celebrate the paschal mystery.

*All*        **Amen.**

*The Altar party and clergy process to the Font whilst singing*

## The Litany of the Saints

Holy Mary, pray for us.

Holy Mother of God,

Holy Virgin of virgins:

**pray for us.**

Saint Michael,

Saint Gabriel,

Saint Raphael,

All you holy Angels and Archangels:

**pray for us.**

All you holy orders of blessed Spirits,

Saint John the Baptist,

Saint Joseph,

All you holy Patriarchs and Prophets:

**pray for us.**

Saint Peter,

Saint Paul,

Saint Andrew,

Saint James,

Saint John,

Saint Thomas,

Saint James,

Saint Philip,

Saint Bartholomew,

Saint Matthew,

Saint Simon,

Saint Thaddeus,

Saint Matthias,

Saint Barnabas:

**pray for us.**

Saint Luke,  
Saint Mark,  
All you holy Apostles and Evangelists: **pray for us.**  
All you holy Disciples of the Lord,  
All you holy Innocents,  
Saint Stephen,  
Saint Lawrence,  
Saint Vincent,  
Saint Fabian and Saint Sebastian,  
Saint John and Saint Paul,  
Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian,  
Saint Gervase and Saint Protase: **pray for us.**  
All you holy Martyrs,  
Saint Silvester,  
Saint Gregory, Saint Ambrose,  
Saint Augustine and Saint Jerome,  
Saint Martin and Saint Nicolas: **pray for us.**  
All you holy Bishops and Confessors,  
All you holy Doctors,  
Saint Anthony,  
Saint Benedict,  
Saint Bernard,  
Saint Dominic,  
Saint Francis: **pray for us.**  
All you holy Priests and Clergy,  
All you holy Monks and Hermits,  
Saint Mary Magdalene,  
Saint Agatha,  
Saint Lucy,  
Saint Agnes,  
Saint Cecilia,  
Saint Catharine,  
Saint Anastasia,  
All you holy Virgins and Widows: **pray for us.**  
All you Saints of God: **pray for us.**

## Renewal of Baptismal Vows

*Priest* As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism. 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?

*All* I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

*All* I renounce them.

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

*All* I repent of them.

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

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

*All* I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

*All* I submit to Christ.

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

*All* I come to Christ.

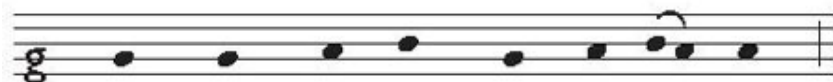
*Priest* May almighty God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you the strength to continue in the way.

# Prayer Over the Waters of Baptism at the Font

*The sanctuary party processes to the Font.*



Praise God who made heaven and earth,



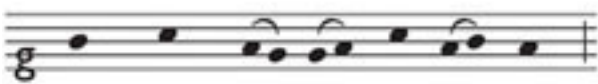
**R.** who keeps his pro-mise for e - ver.



Al-mighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan,



we thank you for the gift of wa - ter



to cleanse us and re-vive us.





We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea



you led your people out of sla-ve-ry



to free-dom in the Pro-mised Land.



We thank you that through the deep waters of death



you brought your Son,



and raised him to life in tri-umph.



Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it



may be made one with Christ in his death and in his re-sur-rec-tion,



to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.



Send your Holy Spirit upon them,



bring them to new birth in the house-hold of faith



and raise them with Christ to full and e-ter-nal life;



for all might, majesty, au-tho-ri - ty and power are yours,



now and for ev - er. **A - men.**

*The altar party process to the Sanctuary.*

*Priest* Alleluia, Christ is risen.

*All* **He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*Choir:* Glory to God, glory in the highest. Peace to His people,  
peace on earth.

*All:* **Glory to God, glory in the highest.**  
**Peace to His people, peace on earth.**

*Choir:* Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father.

*All:* **Glory to God, glory in the highest.**  
**Peace to His people, peace on earth.**

*Choir:* We worship you,

*All:* **Glory in the highest.**

*Choir:* Give you thanks,

*All:* **Glory in the highest.**

*Choir:* Praise you for your glory.

*All:* **Glory to God, glory in the highest.**  
**Peace to His people, peace on earth.**

*Choir:* 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;

*All:* **have mercy on us;**

*Choir:* You are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer,

*All:* **receive our prayer.**

*Choir:* Glory to God, glory in the highest.  
Peace to His people, peace on earth.

*All:* **Glory to God, glory in the highest.**  
**Peace to His people, peace on earth.**

*Choir:* 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 glory of God the Father.

*All:* **Glory to God, glory in the highest.**  
**Peace to His people, peace on earth.**

*Choir:* Amen.

*All:* **Amen.**

## The Collect

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of thy Son  
has overcome the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.

*All*      **Amen.**

## Gradual Hymn 103

## The Gospel

*Gospeller* Alleluia, alleluia.

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

*All*      **Alleluia.**

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

*All*

## The Homily

## The Peace

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

*All*

## Offertory Hymn 112

*Jesus lives, thy terrors now*

### The Preparation of the Altar

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

*All*

**Amen.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us**

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:

*All*      **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.**

**¶ Please SIT or KNEEL**

*Priest*      Lord, you are holy, indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus  
Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.**

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

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.

All  
Great is the mystery of faith:  
Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once  
for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious  
ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread  
and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Our Lady, Nicolas,  
George, Benedict, Helena and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

All  
Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

Priest At our Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching we are bold to pray:

**All** Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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.

## The Fracture

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.

## Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

## Communion Motet

*The Trumpet shall sound, Handel*

*Stephen Petch, Soloist*



## Prayers after Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**¶ Please remain STANDING**

## The Blessing & Dismissal

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 to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing of God Almighty:  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be amongst you  
and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen**

The Mass is ended.  
He is not here, He is risen.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Organ Voluntary: Fanfare - Nicholas Jacques Lemmens*

*Page 24*