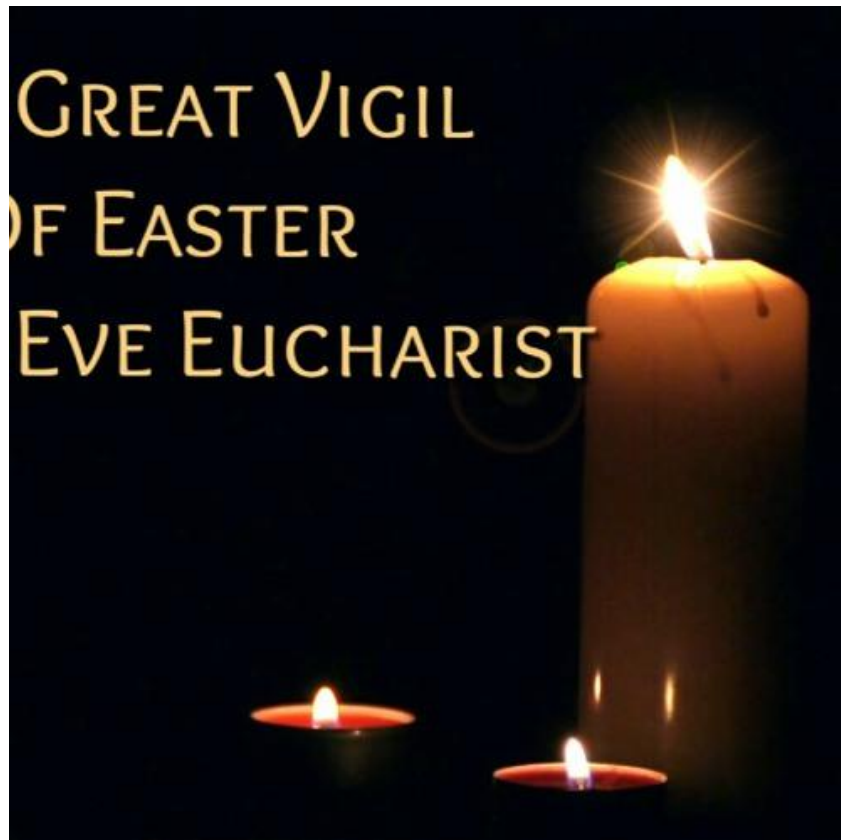


THE PARISH OF UPPER DEAL AND GT MONGEHAM



Holy Saturday

INTRODUCTION

From earliest times, Christians have gathered through the night of Easter Eve to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Easter vigil is meant to be a real experience of new life, a passing from darkness to light, which offers hope to all the faithful.

In the earliest forms of this service, the Old Testament Scriptures were read and reflected upon until the resurrection was proclaimed in the Eucharist at cockcrow.

We begin with the lighting of a new fire from which the Easter Candle is lit. Here, by the fire, the resurrection is proclaimed. The candle is brought into church, pausing at intervals to allow the congregation to light individual candles. We sing the Exsultet, proclaim the beginning of Easter and sing the Gloria. The Old Testament readings follow. As we hear these readings we are invited to reflect on our own personal journey in the light of the Easter revelation.

From the end of the second century onwards, the Easter liturgy has traditionally been a major Baptismal event. Lent became a period of preparation for entering into the church. Candidates entered into Christ's death and resurrection through the Church's celebration of them. So, after the liturgy of the word, we bless the water of baptism, renew our baptismal promises and sing as the waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people.

Holy Communion follows and we end by going out, with the risen Christ within us, to love and serve the Lord.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The church is in darkness as ministers go in silence to the main entrance, carrying the Easter Candle.

All stand and face the ministers. The president says:

Dear friends in Christ,
on this most holy night
when our Lord Jesus 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.

The new fire is kindled

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.

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.
Light up 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.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

The Easter candle is marked.

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 us and keep us.

All: Amen

We light the Easter candle

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

The candle is raised and the minister sings

The Light of Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

The procession moves into church and stops. The verse and response are repeated and candles around the cross are lit. The Easter candle is placed on a stand in the middle of the sanctuary. The Exsultet is sung

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 shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

The Lord be with you

All: and also with you

Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up unto the Lord

Let us give thanks unto our Lord and God

All: 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 reconciling us once again to you.

All: Glory to you for ever.

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

All: Glory to you for ever.

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

All: Glory to you for ever

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

All: Glory to you for ever.

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.

All: Glory to you for ever.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost,
Beyond our deepest dreams
You made even our sin a happy fault.

All: Glory to you for ever.

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.

All: Glory to you for ever.

Night truly blessed when heaven is joined to earth
and all creation is reconciled with God.

All: Glory to you for ever.

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 has 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.

All: Amen

THE VIGIL

During the following hymn lights are taken from the Easter Candle to illuminate the Bible from which the Vigil readings will be taken

Hymn: Come down O love divine (120)

The president says

As we await the risen Christ, let us listen to the word of God, recalling how he saved his people throughout history and in the fullness of time, sent his Son to be our redeemer. Through this Easter celebration, may God bring to perfection the saving work begun in us.

First Reading: Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a

Psalm: 104. 1-7

Resp.: *'Send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth'*

Prayer

Second Reading: Exodus 14: 15 – 15:1

Canticle: Exodus 15: 1 – 6, 17 – 18

Resp.: **'This is my God and I will praise him'**

Prayer

Third Reading: Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14

Psalm 98

Resp.: **'The Lord has made known his salvation
in the sight of the nations. '**

Prayer

The Easter Acclamation

The president says

Alleluia! Christ is risen

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter fanfare and bells.

Candles are extinguished and lights are switched on

Gloria: Hymn Angel Voices ever singing (40)

The president introduces a period of silent prayer:

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

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.

All: Amen.

Epistle: Romans 6: 3 – 11

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn: Thou whose almighty word (767)

Gospel Acclamation:

The president says

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead

All: Alleluia!

He has defeated the powers of death

All: Alleluia!

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing

All: Alleluia!

He has the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia!

Gospel:

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

All: Glory to you O Lord

At the end:

This is the gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you O Christ.

Homily

Silence follows.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM VOWS

During the hymn ministers and people go to the font, the place of Baptism.

The president says

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. In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

All: We turn to Christ

Do you repent of your sins?

All: We repent of our sins.

Do you renounce evil?

All: We renounce evil

Prayer over the water

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

All: Who keeps his glory for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptised in the river Jordan.

We thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.

Saving God

All: 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

All: 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

All: Give us life.

Bless this water that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one in Christ in his death
and in his resurrection
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Saving God

All: 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

All: Give us life.

Reaffirmation of Faith

Brothers and sisters,
I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.
Do you believe and trust in God the father?

**All: I believe in God,
the Father Almighty creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All: 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?

**All: 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**

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and
forgiven our sins. May he keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus
Christ for ever.

All: Amen

The congregation is sprinkled with the water of baptism.

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

All: Amen.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruits of the spirit.

All: 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.

All: And also with you. Alleluia!

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We exchange a sign of peace and greet one another with the words

Christ is risen

The ministers return to the altar during the following hymn

Hymn: Ye Choirs of new Jerusalem (839)

Preparation of the Table

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Lord of life, with unbounded joy
we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven,
may we know your resurrection power,
through Christ our risen Lord.

All: Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All: His Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed our duty and our joy
always and everywhere
to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father,
and on the 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 all the powers of creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

Sanctus / Benedictus

**Holy, holy, holy, God ever reigning,
Filling all the universe with glory, power and light.
Blest is our redeemer,
sent from God to save us,
Hail and hosanna, glory in the height.
Amen, amen.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father
through your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ
and as we follow his example and obey his command
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and blood.

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,
“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.”

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross.
We proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension.
We look for the coming of your kingdom
and with this bread and this cup
we make memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him our great High Priest
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise
and, as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him
in the unity of the Holy spirit
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you Father Almighty
in songs of everlasting praise.

**All: Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen**

Silence is kept

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom

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.**

Breaking of the bread

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

**All: Lord our hearts hunger for you
give us this bread always.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Agnus Dei

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.

If you are a full member of a Christian Church you are welcome to receive the Sacrament. If you would like instead to receive a blessing please come to the Altar Rail carrying this Service Book.

The Post Communion Prayer

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: Amen.

Hymn: Glorious things of thee are spoken (223)

Blessing

Alleluia, Christ is risen

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God the Father

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead
open to you who believe
the gates of everlasting life

All: Amen

God the Son

who, bursting from the grave
Has won a glorious victory
Give you joy as you share the Easter faith

All: 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.

All: Amen

And the blessing of God Almighty

Father Son and Holy Spirit

Be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

With the risen life of Christ within us

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Please join us for refreshments at the at the end of the service.

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