

Service of Light and Easter Vigil

The building being in darkness, the ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Easter Candle.

All stand and face the ministers.

The president says

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord.

We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,
confident that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever in God.

The new fire is kindled.

Let us pray

Father, we share in the light of your glory
through your son the light of the world.
Make this new fire ✠ holy, and inflame us with new hope.
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration
And bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our candle bears upon it the sign of the cross, and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, for

Christ is yesterday and today	<i>mark vertical down</i>
the beginning and the end,	<i>mark horizontal</i>

Alpha and
Omega.

mark Alpha
mark Omega

Inscribed here are the figures of this year of grace, 2011.
They remind us of Christ, that

all time belongs to him,	<i>mark 1st digit of year</i>
and all ages;	<i>mark 2nd</i>
to him be glory and power,	<i>mark 3rd</i>
through every age and for ever.	<i>mark 4th</i>

Amen.

Incense studs are inserted into the Easter Candle.

By his holy	<i>top</i>
and glorious wounds	<i>middle</i>
may Christ our Lord	<i>bottom</i>
guard us	<i>left</i>
and keep us.	<i>right</i>

Amen.

The president lights the Easter Candle from the new fire, saying

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

*The minister bearing the Candle enters the building, followed by the
other ministers. At three stations they pause and repeat*

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*The Easter Candle stands centrally illuminating the lectern.
All candles in church are lit from the Easter Candle.*

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

The Exsultet is sung.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia

THE VIGIL

Dear friends in Christ

As we rejoice, this night, in Christ's resurrection,
let us prepare for the glorious liturgies of Easter Morning
by keeping now a vigil.

Let us listen once again to the record of God's saving deeds in history.
Let us read these narratives by the light of the Easter Candle,
and let us hear them in the light of Christ's resurrection.

Let us praise God for his saving work
and for his gift of Christ our saviour.

Through this Easter celebration may God bring to perfection
The saving work he has begun in us.

Each reading is followed by a responsorial psalm and a prayer

- 1) Genesis 1: 1 to 2: 2 – Send forth your spirit O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.
- 2) Genesis 22: 1-18 – Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
- 3) Exodus 14: 15 to 15: 1 – I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph.
- 4) Omit
- 5) Isaiah 55: 1-11 – With joy you will draw water from the well of salvation
- 6) Omit
- 7) Omit
- 8) Romans 6: 3-11 – Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Let us praise God for Christ's resurrection,
using the words of the Gloria.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
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.**

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ
Tonight we have rejoiced to hear of Christ's resurrection,
And we have heard the story of God's saving work.
Let us rest now in sure hope of our salvation
And return tomorrow to worship the risen Christ.

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God.