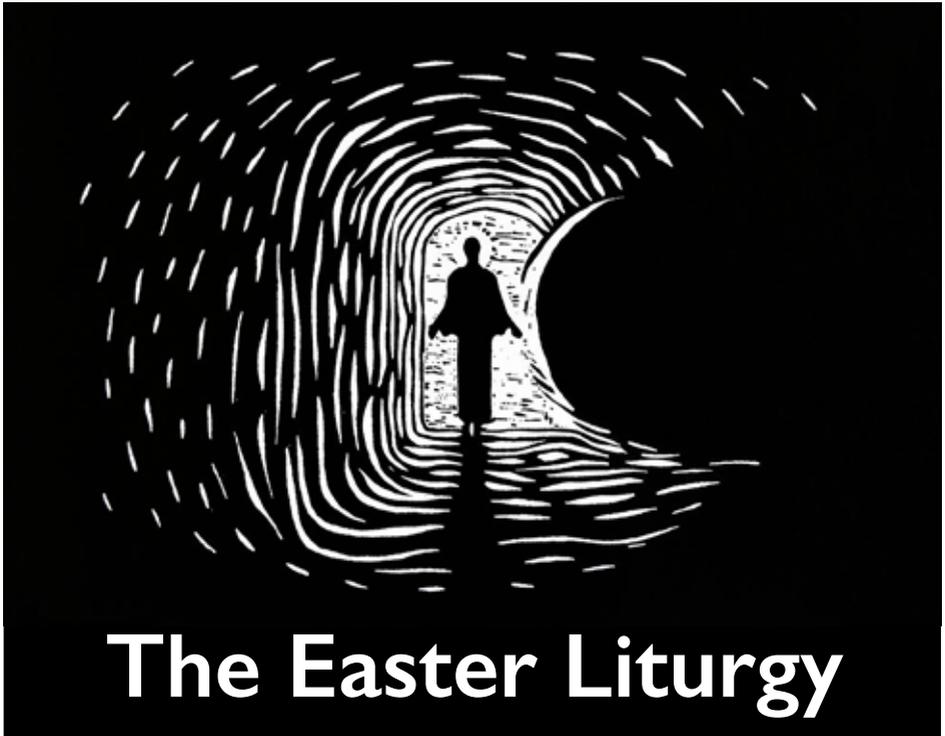




Great St Mary's

THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH CAMBRIDGE



The Easter Liturgy

The Vigil
The Service of Light
The First Eucharist of Easter

WELCOME TO GREAT ST MARY'S, THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH
Wherever you have come from, and whoever you are, consider yourself at home here with us. If this is your first time here, please introduce yourself. We'd love to get to know you better.

We are delighted that you have come to worship with us to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This Easter Liturgy is a modern form of ceremonies which date from the very beginning of the life of the Church. Today's service is in three sections:

The Vigil starts in front of the church while it is still dark. In ancient times Christians kept watch through the night, nourished and encouraged by passages of scripture which spoke of God's saving acts. Our readings today follow a baptismal theme.

The Service of Light takes place at the West end of the church. The Easter Candle is lit and brought into the sanctuary, symbolising the Light of Christ which even death was not able to put out. The traditional Exsultet is sung; an ancient Easter song of praise to the risen Christ.

The Eucharist is a celebration that the Lord is risen, and none more so than the Eucharist of Easter. The risen Lord Jesus comes among us, and we receive his life in order to live for him in the world.

- **Face coverings (masks) are required at all times**
- **A 2m distance must be kept between households at all times**
- **Please do not attend if you or a member of your household has any COVID-19 symptoms.**
- **This service will be recorded and livestreamed**

greatstmarys.org

   **@GreatStMarys**

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THE VIGIL

Before the service, the people gather outside

As far as possible, you are asked to wait in SILENCE.

At 5.25am the clergy and ministers gather. The president offers an informal greeting to the people, before saying

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. Let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

THE FIRST READING

The Creation: Genesis 1.1-2.4a

Then the president prays

Let us pray that we may see God's image restored.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Your love cannot be contained
and overflows in the wonder of creation.

You formed the universe out of nothing
and moulded us from the clay of the earth.

All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,

○ Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All: Amen.

The Fall: Genesis 3

Then the President prays

Let us pray that our merciful God will show compassion
on all who fall victim to the power of sin.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
The sin which we dare not confront breaks your heart
and nothing can be concealed from your sight,
yet you showed mercy to our ancestors.
Show mercy today to all who fall prey to sin's lure,
and shatter the power of evil,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All: Amen.

Crossing the Red Sea: Exodus 14

Then the President prays

Let us pray that God will give freedom
to his enslaved people.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
You heard the agony of your people
as they cried out from their slavery,
and you gave them Moses
to lead them to a land
flowing with milk and honey.
Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today
and lead us through the turbulent sea of life
to our true home with you,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All: Amen.

Water of life: Ezekiel 36.24-28

Then the President prays

Let us pray that God will give to the thirsting
a new outpouring of his refreshing spirit.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
When we are overwhelmed by the wasting world,
gather us again and renew us.
Create in us a new heart and a renewed spirit,
that we may be a people prepared
to live in your land and walk in your ways,
○ Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All: Amen.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The President and other ministers gather at the Easter fire, where the President prays

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 Easter Candle is brought to the President, who traces on it a cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, and the numbers of the current year

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.

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,
so that we may rise with him to newness of life.
Now that we have completed our observance of Lent,
we renew the promises made at our baptism,
affirming our allegiance to Christ
and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask:

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness
that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world
which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you renounce all sinful desires
that draw you from the love of God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All: I do.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

All: I do.

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

All: I do.

THE EASTER CANDLE

The President then inserts five grains of incense into the Easter Candle

By his holy (1)
and glorious wounds (2)
may Christ our Lord (3)
guard (4)
and keep us (5)

The Easter Candle is lit and the President says

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

The deacon says

The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

The deacon brings the Easter Candle, into the darkened Church.

*Please enter **SILENTLY, AND SAFELY**, during the procession*

The deacon sets the Easter Candle in its stand at the front of the church, and the deacon then quietly chants

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 fills 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!

It is indeed 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 which gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault.

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.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, heaven is joined to earth
and all creation is reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering;
and 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.

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

The President exclaims

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Everyone responds

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

At this point, the organist plays a paean of praise, and the church is flooded with light

When the organist has concluded, the President prays

THE COLLECT

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame 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.

THE GOSPEL
MARK 16.1–8

The deacon says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered

the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you O Christ.

THE HOMILY

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

Everyone STANDS.

The President introduces the Peace

God has made us one in the risen Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

The deacon says

Each from our own places, and at home, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

For those worshiping in church: Please remain where you are; present guidelines do not allow us to share the peace physically, even while we do share Christ's peace in our hearts.

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.

And now we give you thanks
because Christ our paschal sacrifice
has made us children of the light,
rising to new and everlasting life.
He has opened the gates of heaven
to receive his faithful people.
His death is our ransom from death,
his resurrection is our rising to life.
The joy of the resurrection renews the whole world,
while the choirs of heaven sing for ever to 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.**

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 his 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:
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.

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 the 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, and with him, and 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.**

Everyone KNEELS, and SILENCE is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The President introduces the Lord's Prayer

As our Risen Saviour taught us, so we pray

All: **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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The President breaks the consecrated bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All: **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The President says

Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

*Please follow the directions of the stewards and **maintain a 2m distance** between yourself and other households.*

Please do not remove your mask until it is time to receive communion.

Communicant members of all churches are invited to receive.

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.

THE DISMISSAL

THE BLESSING

The President says

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

All: Alleluia, Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All: Alleluia, Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All: Alleluia, Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Alleluia, Amen.

The deacon says

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

