

SHARED MINISTRY IN EXNING AND NORTH NEWMARKET

VIGIL OF EASTER EVE

INCLUDING

BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND FIRST MASS OF EASTER



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Gathering

The service begins in darkness. A single candle (not the paschal candle) is prepared, unlit, on the altar

Preface to the Welcome of the Light

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.

Blessing of the Fire

The single candle is lit.

Let us pray.

○ God, who through your Son, Jesus Christ, bestowed upon your faithful people the fire of your glory, sanctify this new fire, we pray, and grant that, by these paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires, that with minds made pure we may attain the joys of your unending splendour; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preparation of the Paschal Candle

The paschal candle is marked with the cross, the letters A and O, and the year of our Lord.

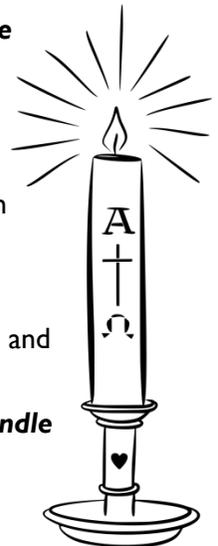
Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

Grains of incense are inserted into the candle.

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

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The paschal candle is lit from the single candle.



Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

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

Welcome of the Light

The light of Christ: **thanks be to God.**

Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured
who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The light of Christ: **thanks be to God.**

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
the lights of evening round us shine,
we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.

The light of Christ: **thanks be to God.**

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung with undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:
therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

The light of Christ: **thanks be to God.**

Exultet

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;
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 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. **Glory to you for ever.**

For this is the Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful. **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. **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. **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. **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. **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. **Glory to you for ever.**

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. **Glory to you for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering, this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers. As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee, 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.**

Preface to the Vigil

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of Gods 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.

First Reading

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Genesis 1.1-5a, 26-31a

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.

Second Reading

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, 'What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?' So he had his chariot made ready, and took his army with him; he took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out boldly. The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his army

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Exodus 14.5-9a, 21-31

Let us pray.

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Third Reading

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55.1-11.

Let us pray.

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Easter Acclamation

We have heard how the holy scriptures relate our need of salvation, and God's mercy and loving-kindness towards us. Now let us greet our risen Lord, who came to bring about that glorious work of redemption, with shouts of joy and acclamation.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The other candles on the altar are lit.

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.**

Collect

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

Epistle Reading

A reading from the letter to the Romans:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6.-311

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm

R: Alleluia! Praise God who made heaven and earth.

When Israel came out of Egypt,

the house of Jacob from a people of a strange tongue,
Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

The sea saw that, and fled; Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like young sheep. R

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you were driven back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams, you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turns the hard rock into a pool of water,

the flint-stone into a springing well. R.

Psalm 114

Gospel Reading

Alleluia! Alleluia! 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.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord be with you;

and also with you.

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

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Matthew 28.1-10

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

A short address is given.

Prayer over the Water

A bowl of water is prepared.

Praise God who made heaven and earth;
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us. Saving
God, **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, **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, **give us life.**

Wax from the paschal candle is mixed with the water.

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

Reaffirmation of Decision

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 our baptism, so that we may rise with him to new life within his holy catholic Church. 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 you:

Do you turn to Christ? **I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins? **I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil? **I renounce evil.**

Profession of Faith

And now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptised, and in which you live and grow:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

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?

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.

Asperges

The priest makes the sign of the cross using the holy water. Those participating online may make the sign of the cross, recalling their baptism. During the coming week, each of our church buildings will be asperged with this water as a sign of blessing on our town and on us all.

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

Litany

For the gift of his Spirit: **blessed be Christ.**

For the catholic Church: **blessed be Christ.**

For the means of grace: **blessed be Christ.**

For the hope of glory: **blessed be Christ.**

For the triumphs of his gospel: **blessed be Christ.**

For the lives of his saints: **blessed be Christ.**

In joy and in sorrow: **blessed be Christ.**

In life and in death: **blessed be Christ.**

Now and to the end of the ages: **blessed be Christ.**

Declaration of 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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. ✎

All may express a sign of peace. This is an appropriate moment for those to leave who wish to wait for the morning to share in the Eucharistic offering.

Prayer over the Offerings

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

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 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
HGod 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.

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.

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. Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Agnes, St Etheldreda, St Martin, St Nicholas, St Philip 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, ...

Breaking of the Bread

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

Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The priest receives communion. Those participating online may make a spiritual communion using the words:

Lord Jesus Christ, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

Dismissal Gospel

The Lord be with you;
and also with you.

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

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11.25-26

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessing

The Lord be with you;
and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
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. **Amen.**

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

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

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!