

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

from the Methodist Worship Book

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First published in 1999

This edition published in 2023

The Methodist Worship Book is available in the following editions:

Standard full text, English, ISBN 978 1 85852 116 9

Presentation editions, full text

Bound in blue, ISBN 978 1 85852 119 0

Bound in red, ISBN 978 1 85852 120 6

Bound in green, ISBN 978 1 85852 121 3

Bilingual (Welsh/English) edition, ISBN 978 1 85852 117 6

Large print, English, ISBN 978 1 85852 118 3

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Acknowledgements

Every effort has been made to ensure that the following list of acknowledgements is as comprehensive as possible, but the experience of those involved in the preparation of **The Methodist Worship Book** is similar to that of the compilers of the **Book of Common Order** of the Church of Scotland, who state:

Many sources have contributed to the compilation of this book, and not all of them are now traceable. Individual members of the Committee prepared drafts, which were revised more or less drastically by the Committee, often resulting in final versions which looked little like the original drafts. Among the casualties of this sometimes protracted process was the identity of many of the sources; they could not be recalled, nor did there seem to be any way to track them down. The Panel wishes to record at once both its indebtedness to any who may recognise in this book rhythms and patterns, expressions and phrases, ideas and images which are their own, and its regret that it became impossible to ask permission or seek consent for their inclusion...

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The observance of Holy Week originated in celebrations by early Christians in the places where the Passion events occurred. Down the centuries the universal Church continued to remember these events. In the services of Holy Week, we are invited to identify and be united with Christ in his sufferings so that we may share his risen life. So, for example, the procession on the Second Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) is not just a reminder of what happened in the past. Rather, it is an act of praise to Christ and an expression of the worshippers' own willingness to follow in his way – the way of humble love (the triumphal entry), of mutual love (the foot-washing commandment), of obedient love (Gethsemane), of victorious, self-giving love (Good Friday), culminating in the celebration of love which is stronger than death (Easter Day).

PALM SUNDAY

(The Second Sunday of the Passion)

INTRODUCTION

The main act of worship on this day should have two distinct features: a celebration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (traditionally by means of a procession) and, more importantly, an extended proclamation of and meditation on the Passion story (traditionally by the reading of the Passion from one of the Synoptic Gospels).

NOTES

- 1 The congregation assembles in a suitable place away from the church building, and goes in procession to the church building. Where this is not possible, all is done inside the church building, and if possible some or all of the congregation take part in the procession.
 - 2 The people bring palm or other branches, or palm crosses, or are given them as they arrive.
 - 3 The Passion narrative may be read by more than one person. When it is read in full, the sermon may be omitted.
 - 4 In a service of **Holy Communion**, or one of the **Morning, Afternoon or Evening Services**, nos. 1-5 below take the place of the Gathering of the People of God or the Preparation.
-

1 Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Sisters and brothers in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we begin this solemn celebration in union with Christians throughout the world. Our Lord Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem in triumph to complete his work as our Saviour; to be rejected, to suffer and die, and to be raised from the dead.

Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

2 **This prayer may be said over the palms:**

Let us pray.

God our Saviour,
whose Son entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and die:
may these palms be for us a sign of his victory;
may we who carry them ever hail him as king
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life.

With all the faithful,
may we enter the new Jerusalem in triumph;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

- 3 A reading from the Gospel according to . . .

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The Gospel is read:

Year A: Matthew 21:1-11

Year B: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Year C: Luke 19:28-40

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

- 4 During the procession the following or another hymn may be sung:

*All glory, laud, and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring!*

**Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son.
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and Blessèd One.**

**The company of angels
Are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.**

**The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before thee we present.**

**To thee before thy Passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To thee now high exalted
Our melody we raise.**

Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.

Do thou direct our footsteps
Upon our earthly way,
And bring us by thy mercy
To heaven's eternal day.

Within that blessed City
Thy praises may we sing,
And ever raise hosannas
To our most loving King.

5 This or some other prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
in your tender love towards the human race
you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take our flesh and to suffer death upon a cross.
Grant that we may follow the example of his great humility,
and share in the glory of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

6 The service continues from the Ministry of the Word with readings from scripture which focus on the Passion. When the Passion Gospel is read, it may be introduced with the words:

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . . .

At the end, the narrator may say:

This is the Passion of the Lord.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

INTRODUCTION

The word 'Maundy' is derived from the first words of the traditional Latin anthem '*Mandatum novum do vobis*' ('A new commandment I give to you', John 13:34). A re-enactment of the foot-washing scene also became central to the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

The celebration of Holy Communion on this day should be marked by joyful thanksgiving for Christ's gift of this sacrament to his Church. In the words and actions which may follow the Lord's Supper, a more sombre mood prevails.

In some churches it is customary on Maundy Thursday to remove all vessels, cloths, books and furnishings from the sanctuary as a sign of the desolation of Gethsemane.

After the main Maundy Thursday service **A Prayer Vigil** may be held as a response to our Lord's invitation to watch and pray; or **A Service of Light and Darkness** may be held.

NOTES

- 1 The basic elements of the service are marked by the symbol *. Other sections may be omitted.
- 2 If foot-washing is to be included in the service, it may take one of three forms. Either the minister may wash the feet of twelve members of the congregation, or a small group may wash each other's feet in turn, or the first and second forms may be used together.
- 3 When there is **A Service of Light and Darkness**, the number of candles to be lit is one fewer than the number of readings. Following each reading, except the last, a candle is extinguished. The last candle, the Christ candle, is extinguished at the end of the penultimate reading (the death of Christ). Apart from a light for the reader, the building is in darkness for the final reading.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*1 The presiding minister says:

On this night, our Lord Jesus Christ said:
'A new commandment I give to you,
that you love each other, as I have loved you.'

2 Hymn

*3 The presiding minister says:

Let us confess our sins to God and ask him to cleanse us.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you,
against our neighbour, and against each other,
in thought, word and deed,
in the evil we have done
and in the good we have not done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image within us.
We are sorry and ashamed
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and lead us out of darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim
to you,
that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.
If we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

This is Christ's gracious word:
'Your sins are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

4 **Glory to God in the highest**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

***5** Let us pray.

God our Father,
you have invited us to share in the supper
which your Son gave to his Church.
Nourish us, we pray, by his presence,
and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

***6** Old Testament reading: Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

7 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

*8 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

9 Hymn

*10 A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The Gospel, John 13:1-17, 31b-35, is read.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

*11 Sermon

12 The service may continue with the washing of feet.
Otherwise, the service continues from no. 15.

THE WASHING OF FEET

13 The presiding minister says:

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

your Son Jesus Christ girded himself with a towel
and washed the feet of his disciples.

Give us the will to be the servants of others

as he was the servant of all,

who gave up his life and died for us,

yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

14 Those who are to have their feet washed move to the front.
Water is poured over their feet, which are dried with a towel.
During the foot-washing there may be appropriate music.
Those who have had their feet washed return to their places.

*15 These or some other prayers of intercession:

Let us pray.

Father, on this night, the night on which he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet and said that they ought to wash one another's feet.

We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, humble us.

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one.

We pray for the unity of your Church . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, unite us.

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who were to believe in him.

We pray for the mission of your Church . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, renew our zeal.

On this night, Jesus commanded his disciples to love, but suffered rejection himself.

We pray for those who are rejected and unloved . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, fill us with your love.

On this night, Jesus reminded his disciples that if the world hated them it first hated him.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, increase our faith.

On this night, Jesus told his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them.

We remember in your presence all who have died . . .
and those who have been bereaved . . .

Lord, hear us.

Lord, renew our hope and trust in you.

*16 The Lord's Prayer

EITHER

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Save us from the time of
trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

OR

As our Saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:

**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 LORD'S SUPPER

*17 The Peace

All stand.

On this night,
our Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples:
'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

18 Hymn

*19 The offerings of the people are presented. Bread and wine are brought to the table (or if already on the table are uncovered). The presiding minister takes the bread and wine and prepares them for use.

THE THANKSGIVING

*20 All stand.

*21 The presiding minister leads the great prayer of thanksgiving:

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 our thanks and praise.

Lord our God,
you brought everything into existence,
and created us in your own image and likeness.
When in our sin we turned from you,
you did not leave us in darkness.

On the night of the Passover
you delivered your chosen people.
In the wilderness you fed them
with bread from heaven
and led them to the promised land.

In your enduring love,
you sent your Son to be our Saviour.
By his life and death
and his rising from the tomb,
you offer to all the gift of eternal life.
Through him
you sent your Holy Spirit
to be with your people for ever.

In communion with your faithful servants
in every time and place
we join with all creation in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God of grace and mercy,
we remember how,
on this night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread
and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take this, all of you, and eat it.
This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup;
he gave you thanks and gave it to them, saying,
'Drink from it, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Therefore, Father,
with this bread and this cup,
we share this paschal mystery
in remembrance of Christ your Son,
and we offer our lives to serve you.
Send your Spirit of life and power
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

By that same Spirit
may we be made worthy to live for you
and to tell of your saving power.

Give grace to us
that our words and deeds may not betray you,
but that we may love one another
as your Son commanded.

Remember, Lord,
all whom you have called to serve you in your holy Church,
and all who offer themselves for the life of the world.

Unite us at the table in your kingdom
with all who have faithfully served you.

We offer our prayer
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
**to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
belong endless praise and eternal blessing,
now and through all ages. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

- *22 The presiding minister breaks the bread in the sight of the people in silence, or saying:

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.**

- *23 Silence, all seated or kneeling

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

- *24 The presiding minister, those assisting with the distribution, and the people receive, according to local custom.

The presiding minister may say these or other words of invitation:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Happy 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.**

- *25 Words such as the following are said during the distribution:

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

26 During the distribution this or some other hymn may be sung:

Sing, my tongue, the Saviour's glory,
Of his cross the mystery sing;
Lift on high the wondrous trophy,
Tell the triumph of the King:
He, the world's Redeemer, conquers
Death, through death now vanquishing.

On the night of that last supper
Seated with his chosen band,
He, the paschal victim eating,
First fulfils the law's command,
Then as food to his disciples
Gives himself with his own hand.

Word made flesh! His word life-giving,
Gives his flesh our meat to be,
Bids us drink his blood, believing,
Through his death, we life shall see:
Blessèd they who thus receiving
Are from death and sin set free.

Low in adoration bending,
Now our hearts our God revere;
Faith her aid to sight is lending,
Though unseen the Lord is near;
Ancient types and shadows ending,
Christ our paschal Lamb is here.

Praise for ever, thanks and blessing,
Thine, O gracious Father, be;
Praise be thine, O Christ, who bringest
Life and immortality;
Praise be thine, thou quickening Spirit,
Praise through all eternity.

*27 The elements that remain are covered with a white cloth.

PRAYERS AND DISMISSAL

28 Silence

29 Let us pray.

**Gracious God,
we thank you for the gift of this sacrament
in which we remember Jesus Christ your Son.
May we who revere this sacred mystery
know and reveal in our lives
the fruits of his redemption;
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

30 Hymn

If **A Service of Light and Darkness** is to follow, the candles are lit.

31 The service may continue with **The Gospel of the Watch** or **A Service of Light and Darkness**. Either may be followed by **The Stripping of the Communion Table**, or **A Prayer Vigil**, or both.

Otherwise, the service concludes with these words:

When the disciples had sung a hymn
they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus prayed to his Father:

'If it is possible,
take this cup of suffering from me;
yet not my will but yours be done.'

Christ was obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

32 All leave in silence.

THE GOSPEL OF THE WATCH

- 33 The lighting in the church is dimmed.
- 34 The Gospel is read:
Year A: Matthew 26:30-75
Year B: Mark 14:26-72
Year C: Luke 22:39-65
- 35 All leave in silence, or the service continues from no. 42 or no. 44.
-

A SERVICE OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS

- 36 The lighting in the church is dimmed.
- 37 God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
And this is the judgement,
that the light has come into the world,
and we loved darkness rather than light.
- 38 The service continues with the readings in the table on page 254, which may be adapted, provided that the penultimate reading always recounts the death of Christ.
- 39 Following each reading, except the last, a candle is extinguished and a period of silence is kept. After each reading or group of readings a prayer is said and a hymn or verses of a hymn may be sung (from memory if there is not enough light).

- 40 May Jesus Christ,
 who for our sake became obedient unto death,
 even death on a cross,
 keep you and strengthen you
 this night and for ever. **Amen.**
- Go in peace.
- 41 All leave in silence, or the service continues from no. 42 or no.
 44.
-

THE STRIPPING OF THE COMMUNION TABLE

- 42 The communion linen and vessels, service and hymn books
 are removed from the communion table in an unhurried and
 dignified manner. Articles such as pulpit falls, hangings,
 banners, candlesticks and other decorations may also be
 removed. This may be done in silence or during the reading of
 Psalm 22.
- 43 All leave in silence, or the service continues from no. 44.
-

A PRAYER VIGIL

- 44 Prayers, readings and other sources for meditation may be
 provided to enable the congregation to 'watch and pray'.
- 45 All leave in silence.

HOLY WEEK

Reading	Year A Matthew	Year B Mark	Year C Luke
1	26:30-35	14:26-31	22:24-27
2	26:36-46	14:32-42	22:28-30
3	26:47-56	14:43-52	22:31-34
4	26:57-68	14:53-65	22:35-38
5	26:69-75	14:66-72	22:39-46
6	27:1-2	15:1-5	22:47-53
7	27:3-10	15:6-15	22:54-62
8	27:11-14	15:16-20	22:63-65
9	27:15-23	15:21	22:66-71
10	27:24-26	15:22-24	23:1-7
11	27:27-31	15:25-32	23:8-12
12	27:32-37	15:33-34	23:13-25
13	27:38-44	15:35-37	23:26-31
14	27:45-46	15:38-47	23:32-43
15	27:47-50		23:44-46
16	27:51-61		23:47-56

GOOD FRIDAY

NOTES

- 1 Adequate provision should be made for silent prayer and meditation. It is appropriate that the service should begin and end in silence and that musical instruments should be used only to support the singing.
 - 2 The Passion narrative may be read by more than one person. When it is read in full, the sermon may be omitted.
 - 3 If the material at no. 13 is used, the words are read by two alternate voices or groups, the congregation responding '**Holy God . . .**'.
 - 4 An evening service on Good Friday may take the form of ***A Service of Light and Darkness*** (see pages 252-253).
-

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 1 **Silence**
- 2 **Let us pray.**
Gracious and eternal God,
look with mercy on this your family,
for which our Lord Jesus Christ
was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**
- 3 **Old Testament reading: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12**
- 4 **Silence**

HOLY WEEK

- 5 Psalm 22
- 6 Epistle: Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- 7 Silence
- 8 Hymn
- 9 The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
The Gospel, John 18:1 - 19:42, is read.
This is the Passion of the Lord.
- 10 Silence
- 11 Sermon

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS

- 12 Hymn
During the singing of this hymn, a wooden cross may be carried to the front of the church.
- 13 The following may be said:
Hear the Reproaches of God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!
**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.**
2: I delivered you from the hand of Pharaoh,
but you delivered me up to be crucified.

- 1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!
- 2: My presence was with you in the pillar of cloud,
but you could not watch with me one hour.
- 1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!
- 2: I opened the sea to lead you out from slavery,
but you opened my side with a spear.
- 1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!
- Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.**
- 2: I sustained you with manna in the wilderness,
but you shared my bread and deserted me.
- 1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!
- 2: I saved you from thirst with water from the rock,
but in my thirst you gave me vinegar to drink.
- 1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!
- 2: I struck down your enemies before you,
but you struck my head with a reed.
- 1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.**

2: I planted you as my fairest vine,
but you yielded only bitterness.

1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

2: I gave you a royal sceptre,
but you gave me a crown of thorns.

1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

2: I raised you to the height of majesty,
but you have raised me high on a cross.

1: My people, what have I done to you?
How have I offended you? Answer me!

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.**

14 Silence

15 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

**We praise and adore you, O Christ:
by your cross and precious blood
you have redeemed us.**

Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain,
to receive all power and wealth,
wisdom and might,
honour and glory and praise!

**We praise and adore you, O Christ:
by your cross and precious blood
you have redeemed us.**

You are worthy, O Christ, for you were slain,
and by your blood you purchased for God
saints from every tribe and language, people and nation;
you have made them a royal house,
to serve God as priests,
and they shall reign upon earth.

**We praise and adore you, O Christ:
by your cross and precious blood
you have redeemed us.**

To him who loves us
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

**to him be glory and dominion
for ever and ever. Amen.**

16 Hymn

THE INTERCESSIONS

17 God sent his Son into the world,
not to condemn the world,
but that, through him, the world might be saved.

Let us therefore pray to our heavenly Father
for people everywhere according to their need.

For the Church of God throughout the world,
for those preparing for Baptism,
and for all who suffer for the sake of Christ,
that God will confirm his people in faith,
strengthen them in love,
and preserve them in peace;
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God,
by your Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified.
Hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people;
that in their vocation and ministry
each may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders,
for our own country and those who govern us,
and for all who work for reconciliation,
that by God's help
we may live in justice, peace and freedom;
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence

God of peace,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For God's covenant people, Israel,
whom he called to be his own
and for all who seek to live by the light of God's truth,
that, with them, God will grant us grace
to live in faithfulness
and to grow in the love of his name;
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence

Eternal God,
bless all who look to Abraham
as the father of faith.
Set us free from prejudice, blindness,
and hardness of heart,
that in accordance with your will and guided by your truth
our life together may be for the glory of your name;
we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For all who lack faith
and for those who are hostile to it,
that God will open their hearts to the truth
and lead them to faith and obedience;
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence

God our redeemer,
who called your Church to witness
that you were in Christ
reconciling the world to yourself:

help us so to proclaim the good news of your love
that all who hear it may be reconciled to you;
through him who died for us and rose again
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For all who suffer:
for victims of violence, injustice and abuse,
for the lonely, the bereaved, and those without hope,
for the sick, the dying, and all who care for them,
that, in his mercy, God will sustain them
with the knowledge of his presence;
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence

Gracious God,
the comfort of all who sorrow,
the strength of all who suffer,
hear the prayers of your children
who cry out to you in their need.
In their afflictions show them your mercy,
and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them,
for the sake of him who suffered for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remembering those who have died,
all whose lives have ended in loneliness,
and all who have offered their lives for the sake of others,
and remembering the saints and martyrs of every generation,
that we also, inspired by their example,
may have grace to glorify Christ;
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
set his passion, cross and death
between your judgement and our souls,
now and in the hour of our death,
and bring us, with the whole creation,
to the light and glory of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

18 **The Lord's Prayer**

EITHER

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Save us from the time of
trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

OR

As our Saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:

**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.**

19 **Hymn**

20 EITHER

A 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.**

OR

B Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it to be the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

21 There is no blessing or dismissal.

All leave in silence.

THE EASTER VIGIL

INTRODUCTION

The Easter Vigil is derived from the great vigils on Holy Saturday during which the early Christians waited in hope and expectancy to begin the celebration of the resurrection. On this occasion, candidates were presented for Baptism. The service consisted of prayer, readings recalling the mighty acts of God, and the lighting of the Easter Candle signifying the triumph of the risen Lord and his presence among his people.

NOTES

- 1 *The Easter Vigil* should begin after sunset on Easter Eve and before sunrise on Easter Day.
- 2 An Easter Candle is a large candle which is traditionally lit for all services during the great fifty days of Easter and may be lit for Baptisms and funerals during the following year. Transfers for the Easter Candle can be obtained from appropriate suppliers. The symbols shown are the cross, α and Ω (Alpha and Omega), which remind us that Christ is the first and the last, the numerals of the current year which remind us that the Lord of all ages is present here and now, and the five 'nails' to represent the 'five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary'.
- 3 When a number of congregations come together for this service only one Easter Candle should be used. If Easter Candles are to be taken back to other churches, they should be lit from the first candle at the end of the service.
- 4 One of the traditional diaconal roles is the carrying of the Easter Candle and the saying of the first text at no. 12 and the text at no. 13. If there is a deacon in the circuit, it is fitting that she/he be invited to exercise this ministry.

5 The Easter Candle may be prepared at no. 6, the presiding minister saying:

<p>A</p> <p>1</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">2</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">0</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">2</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">4</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">[0]</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">[0]</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">3</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">Ω</p>	<p><i>(as she/he traces the vertical arm of the cross, 1-3)</i></p> <p>Christ, yesterday and today</p> <p><i>(as she/he traces the horizontal arm of the cross, 4-5)</i></p> <p>the beginning and the end,</p> <p><i>(as she/he traces the alpha above the cross)</i></p> <p>Alpha</p> <p><i>(as she/he traces the omega below the cross)</i></p> <p>and Omega;</p> <p><i>(as she/he traces the first digit of the year in the upper left corner of the cross)</i></p> <p>his are all times</p> <p><i>(as she/he traces the second digit in the upper right corner of the cross)</i></p> <p>and ages;</p> <p><i>(as she/he traces the third digit in the lower left corner of the cross)</i></p> <p>to him be glory and dominion,</p> <p><i>(as she/he traces the fourth digit in the lower right corner of the cross)</i></p> <p>for ever and ever. Amen.</p>
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Five nails may be inserted into the Candle at the four points and the intersection of the cross as the presiding minister says:

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

- 6 Each member of the congregation should be provided with a small candle and some form of protection against the hot wax. Non-drip candles are recommended. The candles are lit during the Service of Light and may be extinguished at no. 14.
-

THE VIGIL

- 1 The lights, except one for reading, are switched off.
- 2 The presiding minister says:

Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather in vigil, prayer and celebration.

This is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

- 3 At least three of the following sets of Old Testament readings, psalms or canticles, and collects are read here or at no. 17. Set D should always be used.

For each psalm or canticle, an optional refrain has been provided. When a refrain is used it is announced by the reader and said or sung before and after, and at appropriate points during, the psalm or canticle.

A Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

Refrain

Christ is the image of the invisible God,
through whom all things were made.

Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you wonderfully created us
and still more wonderfully redeemed us.
Bring us to those lasting joys
which you have prepared for us
through the sacrifice of Christ our Passover;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Silence

B Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Psalm 46

Refrain

In Baptism we died to sin.
In Christ we are raised to life.

Collect

Let us pray.

Faithful God,
in the waters of the flood
you pronounced judgement on sin
and proclaimed the steadfastness of your covenant love.
Grant that we, who have been baptized in your name,
being rescued from sin,
may rejoice in your mercy;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

C Genesis 22:1-18

Psalm 16

Refrain

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son.

Collect

Let us pray.

God and Father of all who believe in you,
you promised Abraham that he would become
the father of many nations,
and through the death and resurrection of Christ
you fulfil that promise.
May we joyfully accept your invitation
to the new life of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

D Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Canticle: Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18

Refrain

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Collect

Let us pray.

Redeemer God,
you heard the cry of your people
and sent Moses your servant
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.**

Silence

E Isaiah 55:1-11

Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6

Refrain

All who come to Christ will never hunger.
All who believe in Christ will never thirst.

Collect

Let us pray.

God our Father and Provider,
whose Son has given his flesh for the life of the world:
sustain your pilgrim Church on its journey
with the word of life and the bread of heaven.
Draw us nearer to him in whose name we gather,
that, following his way of sacrificial love,
we may come to the banquet of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

F Baruch 3:9-15, 32 - 4:4 or Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6

Psalm 19

Refrain

Christ is the wisdom of God.
Christ has the words of eternal life.

Collect

Let us pray.

God Most High,
whose eternal Word chose a dwelling among us,
that we might live in your presence:
grant us a spirit of wisdom
to know how rich is the glory you have given us,
and how great is the hope to which we are
called in the Word made flesh;
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence

G Ezekiel 36:24-28

Psalms 42; 43

Refrain

Christ gives the living water.
Christ is the fountain of eternal life.

Collect

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
you give the water of eternal life
through Jesus Christ your Son.
May we always turn to you,
the spring of life and source of goodness;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

H Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 143

Refrain

Christ is the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in Christ shall never die.

Collect

Let us pray.

Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptized into the death
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;
through the merits of him
who died and was buried and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

I Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm 98

Refrain

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?

Collect

Let us pray.

God of all holiness,
your promises stand unshaken through all generations
and you lift up all who are burdened and brought low.
Renew our hope in you,
as we wait for the coming in glory of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Silence

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

- 4 The people stand.
- 5 The presiding minister, the deacon or other person carrying the Easter Candle, and the assistants carrying small candles go in silent procession to the entrance of the church. All turn to face the Easter Candle.
- 6 The Easter Candle may be prepared.
- 7 The presiding minister lights the Easter Candle and says:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. **Amen.**
- 8 The person carrying the Easter Candle raises it and says:

Christ our Light.
Thanks be to God.
- 9 The procession moves to the centre of the church. The person carrying the Easter Candle again raises it and, in a louder voice, says:

Christ our Light.
Thanks be to God.

- 10 The assistants' candles are lit from the Easter Candle and the procession moves to the front of the church. The person carrying the Easter Candle again raises it and, in a still louder voice, says:

Christ our Light.

Thanks be to God.

- 11 The people's candles are lit from the assistants' candles and the Easter Candle is placed near the font. When all the candles are lit, the person who carried the Easter Candle says:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

- 12 EITHER

- A** the person who carried the Easter Candle says:

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation around God's throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,

radiant in the brightness of your King!

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour shines upon you!

Let this place resound with joy,

echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

OR

- B** all sing:

Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!

Around God's throne exult in harmony!

Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!

Salute your King in glorious symphony!

**Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past; the day of life is here!**

**Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!
Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore!
Let all God's people shout the long Amen!**

(Tune: WOODLANDS)

13 The person who carried the Easter Candle says:

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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right
that with full hearts and minds and voices
we should praise the unseen God
and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has ransomed us with his blood,
and reconciled us to the Father!

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

This is the night when first God saved our ancestors:
he freed the people of Israel from their slavery
and led them dry-shod through the sea.

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

Most blessed of all nights,
chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead!

Of this night Scripture says:
'The night will be as clear as day:
it will become my light, my joy.'

The power of this holy night dispels all evil,
washes guilt away, restores lost innocence,
brings mourners joy;
it casts out hatred, brings us peace,
and humbles earthly pride.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth
and all creation reconciled to God!

Therefore, heavenly Father,
in the joy of this night,
receive our evening sacrifice of praise,
your Church's solemn offering.

Accept this Easter candle,
a flame divided but undimmed,
a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of your name.

May Christ, the Morning Star which never sets,
find the flame of love still burning within us:
Christ, who came back from the dead,
Christ, who sheds his peaceful light on all the world,
Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

14 A fanfare may be played, cymbals clashed, bells rung, lights switched on and the people's candles put out.

15 **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

16 The presiding minister says:

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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

**17 All sit. If the Vigil has not already been kept, the material at
no. 3 now follows.**

18 O give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!
The Lord is my strength and my might,
he has become my salvation.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted.
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

19 Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

20 Hymn

21 A reading from the Gospel according to . . .

Alleluia! Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Saviour. Alleluia!

The Gospel is read:

Year A: Matthew 28:1-10

Year B: Mark 16:1-8

Year C: Luke 24:1-12

Alleluia! This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord. Alleluia!

22 Sermon

23 Hymn

THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

24 All stand.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
through the paschal mystery
we have been buried with Christ in Baptism,
so that we may rise with him to a new life.
Let us affirm the faith
in which we were baptized
and in which we live and grow.

I ask you, therefore:

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 God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's 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 God 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.**

25 Let us pray.

Lord God almighty,
the radiance of your glory lights up our hearts.
Enable us truly to understand
the waters in which we were cleansed,
the Spirit by which we were reborn,
and the blood by which we were redeemed;
that in our earthly pilgrimage
we may walk more closely
with our risen Saviour and Lord;
who is alive and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

26 The service continues from no. 14 in ***Holy Communion for the Easter Season*** (page 165). The Nicene Creed is not said.