

The Vigil of Easter



Holy Saturday 16th April 2022
8 p.m.

St Thomas' Cathedral
Mumbai

Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

About the Vigil for Easter

This is the night when Christ broke the bonds of death and rose victorious from the grave. Tonight, we hear the ancient stories of God's redeeming work. We move from darkness to light and from solemn chant to joyful song as we celebrate the glorious Resurrection. On this, the holiest night of the Christian year, we rejoice as God in Christ invites us into new life.

For your safety please respect others and give one another space.



Please **take this order of service with you**
to reflect on the prayers and readings and as a reminder of your visit.

Order of Service

The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.

The Service of Light

Lighting and Blessing of the New Fire

At 8 pm please make your way to the porch.

All stand and face the Presbyter.

The Presbyter 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.

All join in singing.

**Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord:
keep watch, take heart!**

Taizé chant

*The new fire is kindled.
The Presbyter leads in the following prayer.*

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.

All sing.

**He is Lord, he is Lord!
he is risen from the dead and he is Lord;
every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is lighted from the newly-kindled fire.

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

The minister bearing the Candle raises it and says or sings

The light of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

The organ sounds a fanfare and bells are rung.

The procession moves through the Cathedral by the light of the Paschal Candle. In the course of the procession the people's candles are lighted.

The Easter Song of Praise

Cantor 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!

All **Let us sing and rejoice with the choirs of heaven,
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

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!

**Let us sing and rejoice with the choirs of heaven,
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

*Words: Exultet, from the Roman Missal
Music: Simon Reynolds*

All take their places in the choir stalls.

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

All Glory to you for ever.

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

All Glory to you for ever.

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin,
restored to grace and holiness,
and share the victory of Christ.

All Glory to you for ever.

The Word of God

The Presbyter says

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

Reading
The Creation
Genesis 1. 1 – 2. 4a

At the conclusion of reading, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Presbyter 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.

All Amen.

Psalm 104. 1 - 7

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. ♦
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
- 2 You are clothed with majesty and honour, ♦
wrapped in light as in a garment.
- 3 You spread out the heavens like a curtain ♦
and lay the beams of your dwelling place in the waters above.
- 4 You make the clouds your chariot ♦
and ride on the wings of the wind.
- 5 You make the winds your messengers ♦
and flames of fire your servants.

Response Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

- 6 You laid the foundations of the earth, ♦
that it never should move at any time.
- 7 You covered it with the deep like a garment; ☒
the waters stood high above the hills.

Reading
Crossing the Red Sea
Exodus 14. 10 – end, 15.1a

At the conclusion of reading, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Presbyter 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.

All **Amen.**

The Song of Moses and Miriam

- I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously, ♦
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
2 The Lord is my strength and my song ♦
and has become my salvation.
3 This is my God whom I will praise, ♦
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.
4 The Lord is a warrior, ♦
the Lord is his name.

**All I will sing to the Lord,
who has triumphed gloriously.**

- 5 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power: ♦
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
6 At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them; ♦
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.
7 In your unfailing love, O Lord, ♦
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.
8 And by your invincible strength ♦
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.
9 You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, ♦
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

**All I will sing to the Lord,
who has triumphed gloriously.**

All STAND and sing.

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

- ² **Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**³ The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

Words: John Newton (1725 - 1807)

Tune: NEW BRITAIN
William Walker (1809 - 1875)

Reading

God promises a new heart
Jeremiah 31. 31 - 34

At the conclusion of reading, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Presbyter Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Psalm 51.8-18

⁸ Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; ♦
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁹ Make me hear of joy and gladness, ♦
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

All **Make me a clean heart, O God.**

¹⁰ Turn your face from my sins ♦
and blot out all my misdeeds.

¹¹ Make me a clean heart, O God, ♦
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹² Cast me not away from your presence ♦
and take not your holy spirit from me.

¹³ Give me again the joy of your salvation ♦
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

Continued

¹⁴ Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked ♦
and sinners shall return to you.

All Make me a clean heart, O God.

¹⁵ Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation, ♦
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

¹⁶ O Lord, open my lips ♦
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁷ For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it; ♦
you take no delight in burnt offerings.

¹⁸ The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; ♦
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

All Make me a clean heart, O God.

All stand and sing.

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Were you there when God raised him from the dead?
Were you there when God raised him from the dead?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when God raised him from the dead?**

Spiritual
arr. F. Westbrook

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Presbyter says

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism.

All join in singing and make their way to the baptismal font.

**This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.**

² **This is the day . . . that he rose again.**

Fijian traditional melody
arr. J. Bell

All SIT.

Reading
Romans 6. 3 - 11
Dead to sin, alive in Christ

At the conclusion of reading, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All STAND and sing.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.**

¹ **Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.**

**² Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen.**

D. Fishel (b. 1950)

All SIT.

The Presbyterian says

By baptism we were buried with him, and lay dead, in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendour of the Father, so also we might set our feet upon the new path of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

On this night of vigil, therefore, as we celebrate again the victorious rising of our Lord and Saviour from the death caused by human sin, let us re-affirm the promises made in our bap-tism. Therefore I ask

All STAND.

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

I renounce them.

Do you renounce all evil forces that exploit and destroy the creatures of God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw us away from the love of God and from the love of our fellow human beings?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of all your past sins and all that you know to have been unworthy of God in your life?

I do repent of all my sins.

Do you believe and trust in one God, the Father almighty who created all things?

I believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of all?

I believe and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who sanctifies, strengthens and guides the people of God ?

I believe and trust in Him.

Believing all this, do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord of your life?

I do.

Reading
Matthew 28. 1 - 10
Jesus has risen

At the conclusion of reading, the reader says

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

All sing.

**And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

*Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

² **Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

*My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*

³ **No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.**

*Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

Words: Charles Wesley

Tune: SAGINA
Thomas Campbell (1800 - 1876)

All sit and keep silence.

All pray together.

**Living Lord, as on the first Easter Day
you stood among your disciples and said,
"Peace be with you"
so come to us, we pray, in your risen power
and make us glad with your presence;
for the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Blessed be Christ, risen and reigning in glory.
As watchmen look for the morning, so do we wait for you,
O risen Christ, come to us with the dawning of the day
and make yourself known to us in the breaking of bread,
for you are our God for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us depart in peace.
In the name of Christ. Amen.





*He lives, Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives, salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart .*

