

Resurrection of the Lord

THE TWO MARYS in the Gospel we hear this Easter night are the first evangelists. Jewish women living under Roman occupation, they risked everything to stand nearby as Jesus was beaten, mocked, nailed to a cross and then died. Two women alone, they came to his tomb as soon as the Sabbath was complete, even though Roman guards were posted there. They carried the instructions of Jesus to Peter and the other disciples who were still in hiding.

We don't live in 33AD in Galilee, and our world is a far different one. Yet the Good News of Jesus Christ is still the best news in the world! The God who made us, who loves us,

who yearns for us to enter into Divine Love and to share it with others, is the same God who called the two Marys to their mission.

Each of us receives the Good News from another, someone who cares about us, walks with us, accompanies us on our journey. Each of us is to go and do likewise. Today's Christian community shares the same mission as Mary Magdalene, the Other Mary, the Apostles and every follower of Jesus Christ since that day at the tomb. Our Easter mission is to "Go and tell." And when necessary, use words.

*Marilyn J. Sweet
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Roman Missal p. 323; Sunday Lectionary p. 278

***Solemn Beginning of the Vigil
(Lucernarium)***

Greeting

The priest and the ministers, one of whom carries the unlit paschal candle, approach the fire.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

- 1** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- 2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3** The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Blessing of the Fire

Dear brothers and sisters, on this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

Let us pray. O God, who through your Son bestowed upon the faithful 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 festivities of unending splendour. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Preparation of the Candle

The priest cuts a cross in the paschal candle and traces the Greek letters alpha (A) and omega (Ω) and the numerals 2020, saying:

Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to him, and all the ages. To him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen.

When the marks have been made, the priest may insert five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross, saying:

By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and protect us. Amen.

The priest lights the paschal candle from the new fire, saying:

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Procession

The deacon or another suitable minister holds the paschal candle and, three times during the procession to the altar, lifts it high and sings.



The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

After the first response, the priest lights his candle from the paschal candle. After the second response, all the people light their candles from the flame of the paschal candle.

After the third response, all the lights in the church are lit, except for the altar candles.

Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

All stand, holding their lighted candles.

For the shorter version, omit the indented parts.

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

(Therefore, dearest friends
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,
invoke with me, I ask you,
the mercy of God almighty,
that he, who has been pleased to number me,
though unworthy, among the Levites,
may pour into me his light unshadowed,
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.)

(The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**)
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just,
with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.

SATURDAY APRIL 11

This is the night
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!
This is the night
of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me,
and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners[,]

longer version:

drives out hatred, fosters
concord, and brings down
the mighty.

On this, your night of grace,
O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn
offering,
the work of bees and of your
servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy
Church.

But now we know the praises
of this pillar,
which glowing fire ignites for
God's honour,
a fire into many flames divided,
yet never dimmed by sharing
of its light,
for it is fed by melting wax,
drawn out by mother bees
to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed
to those of earth,
and divine to the human.

shorter version:

O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed
to those of earth
and divine to the human.

On this, your night of grace,
O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn
offering,
the work of bees and of your
servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy
Church.

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Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honour of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.

Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

Dear brothers and sisters, now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption.

First Reading (Genesis 1.1 – 2.2)

For the shorter version, omit the parts in brackets [].

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 the spirit of 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.” And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome “Sky.” And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land “Earth,” and the waters that were gathered together he called “Seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.

God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light

from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then]

God said, “Let us make man 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 man in his image, in the image of God he created him; 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. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

[Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.]

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

An alternate psalm follows.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 104) _____



Lord, send forth your Spir - it, _____



and re - new the face of the earth.



R. Lord, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, O · my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very · **great**.

You are clothed with · **honour** and majesty,
wrapped in light as with · a garment. **R.**

You set the earth on its · **foun**-dations,
so that it shall never be · **shaken**.

You cover it with the deep as · **with** a garment;
the waters stood above · **the** mountains. **R.**

R. Lord, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You make springs gush forth in · **the** valleys;
they flow between the · **hills**.

By the streams the birds of the air have their · **ha**-bi-tation;
they sing among · **the** branches. **R.**

From your lofty abode you water · **the** mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your · **work**.

You cause the grass to · **grow_for** the cattle,
and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from · **the** earth. **R.**

O Lord, how manifold are · **your** works!

In wisdom you have made them · **all**;

the earth is · **full_of** your creatures.

Bless the Lord, O · **my** soul. **R.**

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or

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 33) —————



The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.



R. The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

The word of the Lord · **is** upright,
and all his work is done · **in** faithfulness.

He loves righteousness · **and** justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of · **the** Lord. **R.**

By the word of the Lord the heavens · **were** made,
 and all their host by the breath of · **his** mouth.
 He gathered the waters of the sea as in · **a** bottle;
 he put the deeps · **in** storehouses. *℟.*

Blessed is the nation whose God is · **the** Lord,
 the people whom he has chosen as · **his** heritage.
 The Lord looks down · **from** heaven;
 he sees all · **human** beings. *℟.*

Our soul waits for · **the** Lord;
 he is our help · **and** shield.
 Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be · **up-on-us**,
 even as we hope · **in** you. *℟.*

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Prayer

Let us pray. (*Pause*)

- 1 Almighty ever-living God, who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works, may those you have redeemed understand that there exists nothing more marvellous than the world's creation in the beginning except that, at the end of the ages, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**
- 2 O God, who wonderfully created human nature and still more wonderfully redeemed it, grant us, we pray, to set our minds against the enticements of sin, that we may merit to attain eternal joys. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Second Reading (Genesis 22.1-18) —————

For the shorter version, omit the parts in brackets [].

God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And Abraham said, “Here I am.” God said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.”

[So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And Abraham said, “Here I am, my son.” Isaac said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.]

When Abraham and Isaac came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” The Angel said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham looked up and saw a ram,

℣. **Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.**

You show me the path · **of** life.
In your presence there is fullness · **of** joy;
in your right hand · **are** pleasures
for · **ev**-er-more. ℣.

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Prayer

Let us pray. (*Pause*) O God, supreme Father of the faithful, who increase the children of your promise by pouring out the grace of adoption throughout the whole world and who through the Paschal Mystery make your servant Abraham father of nations, as once you swore, grant, we pray, that your peoples may enter worthily into the grace to which you call them. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Third Reading (Exodus 14.15-31; 15.20, 1) —————

The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But you, lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the children of Israel may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.”

The Angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was

there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. 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 children of Israel 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 children of Israel, 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 children of Israel 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.

The Prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord:

Responsorial Psalm (Exodus 15)

Let us sing to the Lord; he has
cov - ered him - self in glo - ry.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed · **gloriously**;
horse and rider he has thrown into · **the** sea.

The Lord is my strength and my · **might**,
and he has become my · **sal**-vation;
this is my God, and I will · **praise** him,
my father's God, and I will · **ex**-alt him. **R.**

The Lord is a · **warrior**;
the Lord is · **his** name.

Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the · **sea**;
his picked officers were sunk in the · **Red** Sea.
The floods · **covered** them;
they went down into the depths · **like** a stone. **R.**

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in · **power**;
your right hand, O Lord, shattered · **the** enemy.
In the greatness of your · **majesty**
you overthrew · **your** adversaries;
you sent out your · **fury**,
it consumed them · **like** stubble. **R.**

You brought your people · **in**
 and plant-**ed** them
 on the mountain of your own pos-**session**,
 the place, O Lord, that you made your · **a-bode**,
 the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have es-**tabli**shed.
 The Lord will reign forever · **and** ever. R.

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Prayer

Let us pray. (*Pause*)

- 1 O God, whose ancient wonders remain undimmed in splendour even in our day, for what you once bestowed on a single people, freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution by the power of your right hand, now you bring about as the salvation of the nations through the waters of rebirth, grant, we pray, that the whole world may become children of Abraham and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 2 O God, who by the light of the New Testament have unlocked the meaning of wonders worked in former times, so that the Red Sea prefigures the sacred font and the nation delivered from slavery foreshadows the Christian people, grant, we pray, that all nations, obtaining the privilege of Israel by merit of faith, may be reborn by partaking of your Spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth Reading (Isaiah 54.5-14) —————

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts. Your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the Lord has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off, says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer.

This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I am about to set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of jewels, and all your walls of precious stones.

All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the prosperity of your children. In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 30) —————

I will ex - tol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.



R. I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me · **up**,
and did not let my foes rejoice · **over me**.

O Lord, you brought up my soul from · **Sheol**,
restored me to life from among those gone down · **to the** Pit. **R.**

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his · **faithful ones**,
and give thanks to his holy · **name**.

For his anger is but for a moment; his favour is for a · **lifetime**.
Weeping may linger for the night,

but joy comes · **with the** morning. **R.**

Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to · **me!**

O Lord, be my · **helper!**

You have turned my mourning into · **dancing**.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you · **for-ever**. **R.**

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Prayer

Let us pray. (*Pause*) Almighty ever-living God, surpass, for the honour of your name, what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of their faith, and through sacred adoption increase the children of your promise, so that what the Saints of old never

doubted would come to pass your Church may now see in great part fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fifth Reading (Isaiah 55.1-11)

Thus says the Lord: “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 person forsake their way, and the unrighteous person their thoughts; let that person 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 one who eats, 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.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12) —————

With joy you will draw wa-ter
from the wells of sal-va-tion.

R. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be a-fraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

he has be-come **my** sal-va-tion.

With joy · **you will** draw water
from the wells · **of** sal-va-tion. R.

Give thanks · **to** the Lord,
call · **on** his name;

make known his deeds a-**mong** the nations;
proclaim that his · **name is** ex-alted. R.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he · **has** done gloriously;
let this be known in · **all** the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O · **roy-al** Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy · **One** of Israel. R.

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Prayer

Let us pray. (*Pause*) Almighty ever-living God, sole hope of the world, who by the preaching of your Prophets unveiled the mysteries of this present age, graciously increase the longing of your people, for only at the prompting of your grace do the faithful progress in any kind of virtue. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sixth Reading (Baruch 3.9-15, 32 – 4.4) —————

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom! Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a foreign country, that you are defiled with the dead, that you are counted among those in Hades? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. If you had walked in the way of God, you would be living in peace forever.

Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace. Who has found her place? And who has entered her storehouses?

But the one who knows all things knows her, he found her by his understanding. The one who prepared the earth for all time filled it with four-footed creatures; the one who sends forth the light, and it goes; he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling; the stars shone in their watches, and were glad; he called them, and they said, "Here we are!" They shone with gladness for him who made them.

This is our God; no other can be compared to him. He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. Afterward she appeared on earth and lived with humanity. She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures forever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward

the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people.

Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19) —————



Lord, you have the words of e - ter - nal life.



R. Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

The law of the Lord is · **perfect**,
reviving the · **soul**;
the decrees of the Lord are · **sure**,
making · **wise** the simple. R.

The precepts of the Lord are · **right**,
rejoicing the · **heart**;
the commandment of the Lord is · **clear**,
en-**lightening** the eyes. R.

The fear of the Lord is · **pure**,
enduring for-**ever**;
the ordinances of the Lord are · **true**
and righteous · **al-to-gether**. R.

More to be desired are they than · **gold**,
even much fine · **gold**;
sweeter also than · **honey**,
and drippings · **of** the honeycomb. R.

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Prayer

Let us pray. (*Pause*) O God, who constantly increase your Church by your call to the nations, graciously grant to those you wash clean in the waters of Baptism the assurance of your unfailing protection. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Seventh Reading (Ezekiel 36.16-17, 18-28) _____

The word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived on their own soil, they defiled it with their ways and their deeds; their conduct in my sight was unclean. So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for the idols with which they had defiled it. I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries; in accordance with their conduct and their deeds I judged them.

But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that it was said of them, “These are the people of the Lord, and yet they had to go out of his land.”

But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes.

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

An alternate psalm follows.

When baptism is celebrated, sing Isaiah 12 (p. 77).

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 42; 43) —————

As a deer longs for flow - ing streams,
my soul longs for you, O God.

R. As a deer longs for flowing streams,
my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for · God,
for the living · God.

When shall I · come
and behold the face · of God? **R.**

R. As a deer longs for flowing streams,
my soul longs for you, O God.

I went with the · **throng**,
and led them in procession to the house of · **God**,
with glad shouts and songs of · **thanksgiving**,
a multitude · **keeping** festival. **R.**

O send out your light and your · **truth**;
let them · **lead me**;
let them bring me to your holy · **mountain**
and to · **your** dwelling. **R.**

Then I will go to the altar of · **God**,
to God my exceeding · **joy**;
and I will praise you with the · **harp**,
O God, · **my** God. **R.**

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or

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51) —————



R. Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Create in me a clean heart, · O God,
and put a new and right spirit · **with-in me**.
Do not cast me away from · **your** presence,
and do not take your holy · **spirit** from me. **R.**

Restore to me the joy of your · **sal**-vation,
 and sustain in me a will-**ing** spirit.
 Then I will teach transgressors · **your** ways,
 and sinners will re-**turn** to you. R.

For you have no delight · **in** sacrifice;
 if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not · **be** pleased.
 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a bro-**ken** spirit;
 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will · **not** de-spise. R.

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Prayer

Let us pray. (*Pause*)

- 1 O God of unchanging power and eternal light, look with favour on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation, which you planned from all eternity; may the whole world know and see that what was cast down is raised up, what had become old is made new, and all things are restored to integrity through Christ, just as by him they came into being. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**
- 2 O God, who by the pages of both Testaments instruct and prepare us to celebrate the Paschal Mystery, grant that we may comprehend your mercy, so that the gifts we receive from you this night may confirm our hope of the gifts to come. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God (p. 7)

Collect

Let us pray. O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render you undivided service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Epistle (Romans 6.3-11) —————

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Solemn Alleluia (Psalm 118)

R. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O give thanks to the Lord, for **he** is good;
his steadfast love en-**dures** for-ever.

Let Is-**rael** say,

“His steadfast love en-**dures** for-ever.” *R.*

“The right hand of the Lord **is** ex-**alted**;
the right hand of the **Lord** does valiantly.”

I shall not die, but **I shall** live,
and recount the **deeds** of the Lord. *R.*

The stone that the **builders** re-**jected**
has become **the** chief cornerstone.

This is the **Lord’s** doing;
it is marvellous **in** our eyes. *R.*

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Gospel (Matthew 28.1-10)

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel 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 worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Baptismal Liturgy

This celebration combines text from The Roman Missal (2010) and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (1987), where appropriate.

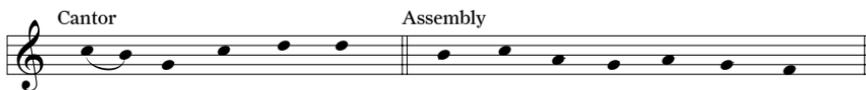
Introduction

1 *If there are candidates for baptism:*

Dearly beloved, with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers come to the aid of these our brothers and sisters in their blessed hope, so that, as they approach the font of rebirth, the almighty Father may bestow on them all his merciful help.

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Saint Stephen,
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,
Saint Lawrence,
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity,
Saint Agnes,
Saint Gregory,
Saint Augustine,
Saint Athanasius,
Saint Basil,
Saint Martin, Saint Benedict,
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic,
Saint Francis Xavier,
Saint John Vianney,
Saint Catherine of Siena,
Saint Teresa of Jesus,
(other saints)
All holy men and women, Saints of God,



Lord, be mer - ci - ful, Lord, de - liv - er us, we pray.

Lord, be merciful, Lord, deliver us, we pray.
From all evil,
From every sin,
From everlasting death,
By your Incarnation,
By your Death and Resurrection,
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,



Be merciful to us sin-ners, Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Be merciful to us sinners, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

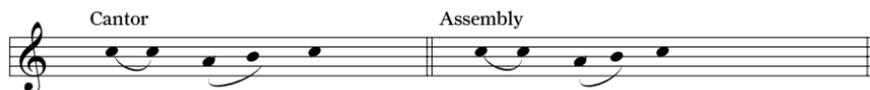
1 *If there are candidates for baptism:*

Bring these chosen ones to new birth through the grace of Baptism, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

2 *If there are no candidates for baptism:*

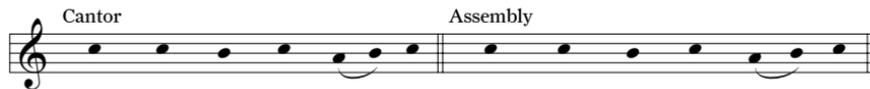
Make this font holy by your grace for the new birth of your children, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Son of the living God, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**



Christ, hear us.

Christ, hear us.



Christ, gra-cious-ly hear us. Christ, gra-cious-ly hear us.

Christ, hear us. **Christ, hear us.**

Christ, graciously hear us. **Christ, graciously hear us.**

If there are candidates for baptism, the priest prays:

Almighty ever-living God, be present by the mysteries of your great love and send forth the spirit of adoption to create the new peoples brought to birth for you in the font of Baptism, so that what is to be carried out by our humble service may be brought to fulfillment by your mighty power. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of Baptismal Water

O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized;

O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Springs of wa - ter, bless the Lord;



praise and exalt him above all for e - ver.

**Springs of water, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him above all for ever.**

Renunciation of Sin

Using one of the following formularies, the priest questions all the candidates together or individually.

- 1 Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children?
I do.
Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? **I do.**
Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness? **I do.**
- 2 Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises? **I do.**
- 3 Do you reject Satan? **I do.**
And all his works? **I do.**
And all his empty promises? **I do.**

Adult candidates may now be anointed with the Oil of Catechumens.

We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Saviour. May he strengthen you with his power. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

N., do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**

Do you 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? **I do.**

Baptism

The priest baptizes each candidate either by immersion or by the pouring of water.

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Anointing after Baptism

Any newly baptized infants are anointed now with chrism.

The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit.

He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain for ever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King. **Amen.**

Clothing with a Baptismal Garment

All the newly baptized receive a white garment.

N. and N., you have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. Receive this baptismal garment and bring it

unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life. **Amen.**

Presentation of a Lighted Candle

Godparents, please come forward to give to the newly baptized the light of Christ.

A godparent of each of the newly baptized lights a candle from the paschal candle and presents it to the newly baptized.

You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

Confirmation of Adults

The newly baptized adults with their godparents stand before the priest.

My dear candidates for confirmation, by your baptism you have been born again in Christ and you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptized.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering, death, and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be active members of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

My dear friends, let us pray to God our Father, that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these candidates for confirmation to strengthen them with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

Laying on of Hands

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anointing with Chrism

During the conferral of the sacrament an appropriate song may be sung.

N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Peace be with you. **And with your spirit.**

Blessing of Water *(when no one is to be baptized)*

Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, which will be sprinkled upon us as a memorial of our Baptism. May he graciously renew us, that we may remain faithful to the Spirit whom we have received. *(Pause)*

Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people who keep vigil on this most sacred night, and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption, graciously bless this water. For you created water to make the fields fruitful and to refresh and cleanse our bodies. You also made water the instrument of your mercy: for through water you freed your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the desert; through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through water, which Christ made

holy in the Jordan, you have renewed our corrupted nature in the bath of regeneration.

Therefore, may this water be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have received, and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and sisters, who at Easter have received their Baptism. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

While holding lit candles, the entire community renews its baptismal promises, if it has not already done so.

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

1 Do you renounce Satan? **I do.**

And all his works? **I do.**

And all his empty show? **I do.**

2 Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God? **I do.**

Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you? **I do.**

Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin? **I do.**

The community professes its faith:

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? **I do.**

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. **Amen.**

The priest sprinkles the people with blessed water, while an appropriate song is sung.

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only. There are more suggestions at www.livingwithchrist.ca

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, joyful witness to the resurrection of the Lord, we pray to the Lord: R.

For the world's nations and people, to whom Christ's resurrection offers the fullness of God's peace, we pray to the Lord: R.

For those baptized this night into Christ's death and resurrection, called as Christ's body to witness to the Good News, we pray to the Lord: R.

For Christian communities everywhere, embodying the triumph of life over death in their neighbourhoods and cities, we pray to the Lord: R.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts (p. 10)

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, we ask, O Lord, the prayers of your people with the sacrificial offerings, that what has begun in the paschal mysteries may, by the working of your power, bring us to the healing of eternity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface (*Easter I, p. 11*)

Communion Antiphon (*1 Corinthians 5.7-8*)

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Bow out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this paschal Sacrament one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Solemn Blessing — Easter

Bow down for the blessing.

May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin. **Amen.**

And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality. **Amen.**

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come

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with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

1 Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia!



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! —

R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!