



The Parish Churches of S Philip  
and S Augustine and S Matthew  
with S Mary the Virgin Newcastle

Liturgy and  
Spiritual  
Communion for  
the First Night  
of Easter

## **Notes**

This service is intended for use on Holy Saturday evening as the first act of worship for Easter.

The first reading (from the Vigil) comes at the beginning, setting the scene, as it were, of what is to follow.

There are not intercessions at the Vigil Mass; if you wish to include some, they should occur after the Gospel reading and before the Litany of saints.

The Litany of saints is quite brief (to avoid an approach of, "All the saints on this page, pray for us.") You can add others - particularly personal patrons or other saints, whose lives are important to you.

Various elements of the Baptismal Liturgy have been included.

The reflexion after the Act of Spiritual Communion is the Easter Sequence, with which it would be good if were to become more familiar in the years to come.

*he Liturgy commences with a reading from the Vigil:*

A reading from the Book of the Exodus:

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go on dry ground through the sea. Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove the sea back and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the water.

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.' So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow; the waters returned and covered the Egyptians.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians.

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously : the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation : this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The LORD is a man of war : the LORD is his name.

"Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea : and his picked officers are sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods cover them : they went down into the depths like a stone.

Thy right hand, O LORD, glorious in power : thy right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

Thou wilt bring them in, and plant them on thy own mountain, the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thy abode : the sanctuary, LORD, which thy hands have established.

The LORD will reign : for ever and ever."

Let us pray:

Lord God our Redeemer,

Who heard the cry of Your people

And sent Your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:

Free us from the tyranny of sin and death

And, by the leading of Your Spirit,

Bring us to our promised land:

In and through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## *The Preface to the Exsultet:*

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!

Glory be to God on high.  
And in earth peace, goodwill towards men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,  
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,  
we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right  
hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord;  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high,  
+ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray:

O God, Your saving plan has brought us to the glory of this night. Slaves, we become Your sons and daughters; poor, Your mercy makes us rich; sinners, You count us among Your saints. Bring us to know the place that is ours in the unfolding story of Your purpose, and instil in our hearts the wonders of Your salvation. Grant this through Jesus Christ, our Passover and our Peace, Who is alive and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Church in Rome.

Have you forgotten that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus we were baptized into His Death? 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.

We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, is never to die again: He is no longer under the dominion of death. For in dying as He died, He died to sin, once for all, and in living as He lives, He lives to God. In the same way you must regard yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, in union with Christ Jesus.

This is the day, which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is gracious: His mercy endureth for ever.

This is the day, which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

After the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

God the Father: have mercy upon us.

God the Son: have &c

God the Holy Spirit: have &c

God the Holy Trinity: have &c

Blessed Mary, Mother of God: pray for us

Saint John the Baptist: pray &c

Saint Michael the Archangel: pray &c

Saint Peter and Saint Paul: pray &c

Saint Matthew: pray &c

Saint Philip: pray &c

All Apostles and Evangelists: pray &c

*(continued over the page)*

All holy Martyrs and Confessors: pray &c  
All you saints of God: pray &c

I reject the devil and rebellion against God.  
I renounce the deceit and corruption of evil.  
I repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour.  
I turn to Christ as Saviour.  
I submit to Christ as Lord.  
I come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

\* \* \*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of Heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day He rose again.  
He ascended into Heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and He will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
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.

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgiven us all our sins. May He also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. Amen.

From the right side of the Temple  
I beheld a flowing stream,  
Washing many in its waters  
From their sickness to redeem.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Sang they unto God supreme.

Let us offer our thanksgiving  
To our ever gracious Lord,  
Who through all the world's long ages  
Boundless mercy has outpoured.  
May He with the Son and Spirit  
Now and always be adored.

From the right side of the Temple  
I beheld a flowing stream,  
Washing many in its waters  
From their sickness to redeem.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Sang they unto God supreme.

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Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed by 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.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

*In place of receiving Holy Communion, you should use this prayer:*

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;  
Body of Christ, save me;  
Blood of Christ, refresh me;  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesu, hear me.  
Within Thy wounds, hide me.  
Do not permit me to be separated from Thee;  
From the malicious enemy defend me,  
In the hour of my death call me  
And bid me come to Thee,  
That with Thy saints I may praise Thee;  
For ever and ever. Amen.

*It is appropriate that a time of reflexion follows. If, like the Vicar, you have a mind that easily lured by the frivolous and ephemeral, you might use the following to help stay on task:*

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer your thankful praises!  
A Lamb the sheep redeemeth:  
Christ, who only is sinless, reconcileth sinners to the Father;  
Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:  
The Prince of Life, who died, reigns immortal.  
Speak Mary, declaring what thou sawest wayfaring:  
“The Tomb of Christ, who is living.  
The glory of Jesu’s Resurrection; bright angels attesting,  
The shroud and napkin resting.  
Yea, Christ my hope is arisen: to Galilee he goes before you.”  
Happy they who hear the witness, Mary’s word believing  
Above the tales of Jewry deceiving.  
Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.  
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!

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God of life, for our Redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the Death of the Cross; and by His glorious Resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy. May we know His risen power in our midst: the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.