



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

Text of the Vigil and First Mass of Easter (4th April) 2026

The priest introduces the Liturgy:

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: if we honour the memory of his Death and Resurrection by hearing His Word and celebrating His mysteries, then we may be confident that we shall share His victory over death and live with Him for ever with God.

The priest blesses the Easter fire:

Let us pray:

Father,
we share the light of your glory
through your Son, the Light of the world.
Make this new fire holy, and inflame us with new hope.
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration
and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
[Amen.](#)

The priest consecrates the Paschal Candle:

Christ yesterday and today the beginning and the end Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to Him and all ages to Him be glory and power through every age for ever.
[Amen.](#)

By His holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us.

Amen.

Light the candle:

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

Amen.

The candle is thrice proclaimed:

Christ our Light.

Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet (the proclamation of Easter) follows:

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! My dearest friends, standing with me in this holy light, join me in asking God for mercy, that he may give his unworthy minister grace to sing his Easter praises.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

(continued over the page)

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal 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 you saved our fathers: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin! This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness. This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. What good would life have been to us, had Christ not come as our Redeemer? Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son. O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer! 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 man is reconciled with 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 God. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night! May the morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

[Amen.](#)

We have begun our solemn vigil. Let us now listen to the Word of God recalling how He saved His people throughout history and, in the fullness of time, sent His own Son to be our Redeemer.

A reading from the Book of the Genesis:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over all the earth.' So God created man in His own image; male and female He created them. And God saw everything that He had made and, behold, it was very good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. ♦ O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You are clothed with majesty and honour, ♦ wrapped in light as in a garment.

You laid the foundations of the earth, ♦ that it never should move at any time.

You covered it with the deep like a garment; ♦ the waters stood high above the hills.

You send the springs into the brooks, ♦ which run among the hills. Beside them the birds of the air make their nests ♦ and sing among the branches.

You water the hills from your dwelling on high; ♦ the earth is filled with the fruit of your works.

You make grass to grow for the cattle ♦ and plants to meet our needs,

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.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as He came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of His divinity; Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

[Amen.](#)

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

[Thanks be to God.](#)

"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.

In the greatness of thy majesty thou overthrowest thy adversaries; ♦ 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 sin of tyranny and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.](#)

A reading from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel:

The Lord God says, 'I will sprinkle clean water over you, and you shall be cleansed from all that defiles you. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit into you and make you conform to my statutes, keep my laws and live by them. You shall become my people, and I will become your God.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

[Thanks be to God.](#)

As the deer longs for the water brooks, ♦ so longs my soul for you,
O God.

My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; ♦ when shall I
come before the presence of God?

Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul: ♦ how I went
with the multitude and led the procession to the house of God,
With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, ♦ among those who kept
holy day.

O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, ♦ and
bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,

That I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and
gladness; ♦ and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my
God.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, You give to your
faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen
us by that same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in
faith and love and grow in the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ;
Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
for ever.

[Amen.](#)

Glory be to God on high.

During the Gloria in excelsis, the Altar, the symbol of God's Presence, may be honoured with incense.

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 lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit; God, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

Послання святого Павла до Церкви в Римі

Чи ви не знаєте, що ми всі, хто христився у Христа Ісуса, у смерть Його христилися? Отож, ми поховані з Ним хрищенням у смерть, щоб, як воскрес Христос із мертвих славою Отця, так щоб і ми стали ходити в обновленні життя. Знаючи, що Христос, воскреснувши з мертвих, уже більш не вмирає, смерть над Ним не панує вже більше! Бо що вмер Він, то один раз умер для гріха, а що живе, то для Бога живе. Так само ж і ви вважайте себе за мертвих для гріха й за живих для Бога в Христі Ісусі, Господі нашім.

Це Слово Господнє

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel book is carried to the Lectern:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! This day was made by the Lord: we shall rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed Mary, Mother of God: pray for us.
Saint John the Baptist:
Saint Michael the Archangel:
Saint Peter and Saint Paul:
Saint Matthew:
Saint Philip:
All Apostles and Evangelists:
Saint Olga of Kyiv:
All holy Martyrs:
All holy Confessors:
Saint Nicholas:
Saint Augustine:
Saint Patrick:
Saint Aidan:
Saint Columba:
Saint Cuthbert:
Saint Hilda of Whitby:
Saint Chad:
Saint Cedd:
Saint Bede:
Saint Ninian:
Saint Josaphat:
All you saints of God:

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Lift up your hearts;
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

Father, You give us grace through sacramental signs, which tell us of the wonders of Your unseen power. In baptism we use your gift of water, which You have made a rich symbol of the grace You give us in this sacrament.

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At the very dawn of creation Your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness. The waters of the great flood You made a sign of the waters of baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness. Through the waters of the Red Sea You led Israel out of slavery, to be an image of God's holy people, set free from sin by Baptism. In the waters of the Jordan Your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. Your Son willed that water and Blood should flow from his side as He hung upon the Cross. After his Resurrection He told His disciples: "Go out and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Father, look now with love upon Your Church, and unseal for her the fountain of Baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit give to the water of this font the grace of Your Son. You created man in Your own likeness: cleanse him from sin in a new birth of innocence by water and the Spirit. We ask You, Father, with Your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font. May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with Him to newness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord; by Whom and with Whom and in Whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we worship You, Father almighty in songs of everlasting praise.

[Blessing and honour and glory and power be Yours for ever and ever. Amen.](#)

Dear friends, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may rise with Him to a new life. Now that we have completed our lenten observance, let us renew the promises we made in our baptism when we rejected Satan and all His works and promised to serve God faithfully in His holy catholic Church. Therefore, I ask:

Do you reject the devil and rebellion against God?

[I reject them.](#)

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

[I renounce them.](#)

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Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

I come to Christ.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the Faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in His Son, Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into Heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and He will come to judge
the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the live 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.

I beheld water which proceeded from the Temple, on the right side thereof, alleluia! And all they to whom that water came were healed every one; and they say, alleluia, alleluia!

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious: and His mercy endureth for ever. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

I beheld water &c

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The risen Christ came and stood among His Apostles and said, "Peace be with you." They were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!
The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

The right hand of the Lord has done valiantly, the right hand of the Lord has exalted me; I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. Alleluia!

As the bread and wine are brought to the Altar and prepared for the Mass, the following is sung:

Let us here who represent Cherubim guards around God's throne, As they cry out their thrice holy hymn, Praising the life-giving Trinity, Lay aside all earthly care. Borne by the power of angels' wings To His people now comes the King of kings. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O praise our great and glorious Lord,
And call upon His Name,
To strains of joy tune every chord,
His mighty acts proclaim:
Tell how He freed His chosen race
From Pharaoh's heavy hand,
And led them by His sovereign Grace
To seek the Promised Land.

He gave the shadowing cloud by day,
The moving fire by night,
To guide His people on their way,
And make their darkness light:
To us, the light of Christ our Lord
Illumines all our ways;
He leads us by His Gospel word
And turns our sighs to praise.

We too have manna from on high,
The Bread that came from Heaven,
And He Who brought salvation nigh
Has living water given;
A rock is ours, from whence the spring
In rich abundance flows,
And Christ that rock, our Priest and King,
Both life and health bestows.

Come, let us prize this heavenly food,
And trust our heavenly Guide,
So shall we find death's fearful flood
Serene on Jordan's tide;
So safely reach th' eternal shore
No more by ills opprest;
Where saints their Lord and God adore,
And in His glory rest.

Attribution over the page

Words:Based on verses by Harriet Auber 1773 - 1862

Music: S Matthesw

William Croft 1678 1727

The preparation of the Altar continues; incense may be used to honour the place where Christ will become present. At the end:

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty. All that is in Heaven and earth is Thine:

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own do we give Thee.

Lord, accept the prayers and offering of Your people. May this Easter Mystery bring to perfection the saving work You have begun within us; in and through Jesus Christ our Lord/

Amen.

The priest begins the great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,

We do well always and everywhere

To give You thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise You with greater joy than ever

In this Easter night

When Christ became our Paschal Sacrifice.

He is the true Lamb, Who took away the sin of the world.

By dying He destroyed our death;

By rising He restored our life.

And so with all the choirs of Heaven,

We proclaim Your Glory

And join in their unending hymn of praise.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

+ Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his Apostles
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

The priest holds up the consecrated Host for the people to see.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine for the people to see.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

(continued over the page)

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
By Whom and with Whom and in Whom,
Amen,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
Amen,
all honour and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen, amen.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:
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.

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.

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.

The priest holds up the consecrated elements and invites people to receive Holy Communion:

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

Christ has become our Paschal Sacrifice: let us feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth..Alleluia!

Holy Communion follows.

A brighter dawn is breaking,
And earth with praise is waking;
For Thou, O King most highest,
The power of death defiest.

And Thou hast come victorious,
With risen Body glorious,
Who now for ever livest,
And life abundant givest.

O free the world from blindness,
And fill the world with kindness,
Give sinners resurrection,
Bring striving to perfection;

In sickness give us healing,
In doubt Thy clear revealing,
That praise to Thee be given
In earth as in Thy Heaven.

Attribution over the page

Words: Percy Dearmer 1867 - 1936
Music Nun Lasst uns Gott
Later form of a melody in
Selnecker's Christliche Psalmen 1587

After Holy Communion:

The Lord's right hand has triumphed, His right hand has raised me up.
Alleluia! I shall not die, I shall live and recount His deeds. Alleluia!

Let us pray:

God of life, for our Redemption You have 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 who have shared the Bread
of Heaven know His risen power in our midst: the same Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Jesus lives! Thy terrors now
Can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! By this we know
Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us. Alleluya!

Jesus lives! Henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling breath,
When we pass its gloomy portal. Alleluya!

Jesus lives! For us He died;
Then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving. Alleluya!

(continued over the page)

Jesus lives! Our hearts know well
Nought from us His love shall sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of Hell
Tear us from His keeping ever. Alleluya!

Jesus lives! To Him the throne
Over all the world is given;
May we go where He is gone,
Rest and reign with Him in Heaven. Alleluya!

Words: Christian Gilbert 1715 - 69

Tr Frances Cox 1812 - 97

Music: S Albinus

HJ Gauntlett 1805 - 76

The priest blessed the Easter Garden:

The angel said to the woman: "Do not be afraid, for I know that You seek Jesus, Who was crucified. He is not here; He is risen, as He said.

Let us pray:

God our Father, on this night Your Son, Jesus Christ, was raised from the dead in accordance with the Scriptures. Bless this garden, which we have prepared to celebrate His Victory. May all who see it be strengthened in Faith, know the power of His Presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory. For He is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

[Amen.](#)

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

[He is risen indeed. Alleluia!](#)

The God of peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the Blood of the eternal Covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight; and the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

[Amen.](#)

The Mass is ended. Go in the Peace to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

[In the Name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia!](#)

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