Introduction

According to ancient custom there is no celebration of the Eucharist on Easter Eve. The orders of Morning and Evening Prayer offer adequate liturgical provision for the day. It is particularly important that Evening Prayer should be treated, by the style of its celebration, as belonging to the Eve, and not as the first service of Easter, anticipating the Easter Liturgy itself.

From earliest times Christians have gathered through the night of Easter to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, the Easter Liturgy is not merely a presentation of God's work. It is meant to be a real experience of new life for the worshipper, a passing from darkness to light which offers hope to all the faithful. It is therefore important that the preparation is prayerful and thorough.
The Easter Vigil marks the end of the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and leads into the celebration of Christ’s resurrection. The singing of the Exsultet, the ancient hymn of triumph and rejoicing, links this night of our Christian redemption to the Passover night of Israel’s redemption out of Egypt. Christian baptism is a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, a dying to sin in order to be reborn in him, and the Easter Vigil was from early Christian times a preferred occasion for baptism. It is fittingly a time when those who are already Christians may repeat with renewed commitment the promises of their own baptism, and strengthen their sense of incorporation into the royal and priestly ministry of the whole people of God. The Easter Gospel is proclaimed with all the joy and splendour that the church can find.

The Easter Eucharist may follow immediately on the Vigil, or be deferred until Easter Day. All the resources of the church – music, flowers, bells, colours – are used to celebrate Christ’s resurrection. The ‘Alleluia’, which has been silent throughout Lent, returns.

Now the queen of seasons, bright

with the day of splendour,

with the royal feast of feasts,

comes its joy to render.

*(John of Damascus)*

**Two Patterns**

**Pattern A**

The earliest Christian observance of Easter consisted of a vigil of watching and waiting, fasting and prayer, that lasted through the hours of darkness. Because the vigil began after evening prayer when, as every night, the evening candle was lit, in the Western Church on this particular night this light ceremony was eventually understood as symbolizing the return of the light of Christ and the beginning of the Easter celebration. This tradition lies behind the development of Pattern A.

Pattern A begins with the lighting of a new fire from which the Easter Candle is then lit. Here, the resurrection is proclaimed from the outset in the Service of Light. The Easter Candle, together with the candles held by the individual worshippers, should, if possible, illuminate the church. This illustrates the way that Christians understand the Old Testament and interpret life itself in the light of the resurrection of Jesus. The history of our salvation in the Scriptures is heard in the light of the Easter mystery. The Service of Light reaches its climax with the Easter Proclamation.

The Old Testament readings from the Vigil then follow. We hear the story of our salvation and are invited to reflect our own personal journey in the light of the Easter revelation. The inner dynamics of this service could be drawn out by, for example, lighting a small candle from the Easter Candle after each reading, symbolizing the truth that we understand that reading in the light of Easter.
Pattern A essentially uses the Vigil as an extended Liturgy of the Word.

**Pattern B**

In the earliest forms of Easter Vigil the Old Testament Scriptures were read and reflected upon, until the resurrection was proclaimed in the Eucharist at cockcrow. This tradition forms the basis of Pattern B, which follows a storytelling approach.

Pattern B begins with the lighting of a small fire or light by which the story of salvation is read. However, this light is **not** the Easter light and all effort should be made to avoid any confusion with it.

The story of salvation is told through Old Testament readings selected from the vigil readings. Each reading adds to the story and a sense of expectation gradually increases until the service reaches its climax in the revelation of the resurrection.

Pattern B is more effective with a lengthy Vigil rather than simply an extended Liturgy of the Word. The structure is designed to be flexible and is particularly appropriate if the Easter Liturgy is an all-night service, when a more informal approach could be adopted. The Vigil may be held in a different location from the rest of the service, for example a church hall, or even in the open air by the light of a bonfire.

Pattern B lends itself to an adventurous and creative approach. For example, the Bible readings could be dramatized or enacted, and each reading could be followed by silence, interactive Bible study, artistic activity (including the marking of the Easter Candle), discussion, testimony, drama, intercession, singing or whatever is appropriate for the context. Choruses, spiritual songs or appropriate hymnody could replace the Psalm. If the Vigil is to last all night there could be specific points for eating and drinking that are related to the readings, until the climax is reached in the Service of Light and the Easter Eucharist.

Patterns A and B reflect two different developments of the vigil tradition and each has its own particular dynamic and rationale which needs to be understood. Here we provide fully worked-out services for both which can be adapted to local circumstances and custom.

If either of these vigil patterns is used, it is important to make a conscious decision which one is to be followed. Each of these structures has its own inner logic. Careful thought should be given as to which is chosen and why.

**The Four Main Elements of the Easter Liturgy**

The Easter Liturgy contains four main elements which are intended to form a single whole but may also be celebrated separately, as is shown in the different ways that churches over the years have used and adapted the material.

These elements of lighting the Easter Candle and hearing the Scriptures developed into two of the four key constituent parts of the Easter Liturgy, namely the Service of Light and the Vigil. The other two are the Liturgy of Initiation and the Eucharist or Holy Communion.

**The Vigil**
This is probably the oldest feature of the Easter celebrations. From its earliest times the Church would keep watch through the night and meditate on the mighty works of God. Christians would pray until the earliest hours of the morning, when Christ's resurrection was acclaimed. The Vigil is properly a service for the night and should never begin before sunset on Holy Saturday. The heart of the Vigil is the reading of key passages from Scripture telling of God's saving love. See the Notes to the Easter Vigil (here) for further guidance.

**The Service of Light**

The Service of Light proclaims the resurrection of Christ from the dead in word and action, in silence and sound. The Easter Candle, symbolizing Christ, the light of the world, is lit and the light is carried through the church and progressively passed to the whole congregation. The Exsultet, an ancient Easter song of praise, is sung as the climax of this part of the liturgy.

**The Liturgy of Initiation**

The Easter Liturgy is not just one of the Easter services but a major baptismal event, because baptism and Easter have been closely linked from at least the end of the second century. Lent became the period of preparation for entering into the Church's fellowship through baptism at Easter. Candidates entered into the life of Christ's death and resurrection in the midst of the Church's celebration of them. It is therefore appropriate that there should be a celebration of Baptism (of those able to answer for themselves) and/or Confirmation during the Easter Liturgy, or at the very least, there should be a Re-affirmation of Baptismal Vows by the Christian community as a public declaration of their union with Christ in his death and resurrection.

**The Eucharist**

The celebration of the Eucharist is the proper climax to the Easter Liturgy when we are sacramentally reunited with our risen Lord. The most appropriate time for a celebration of Holy Communion is in the early hours of Easter morning, but if it is celebrated during the night it should be as late as possible, preferably after midnight.

It is important to note that even if there is a non-eucharistic Vigil, there must be at least one celebration of the Holy Communion in every parish church on Easter Day.

**Preparing for the Easter Liturgy**

Before focusing on the detail, it is necessary to consider how the elements of the Easter celebration are to be presented.

Through the centuries different ways of celebrating these events have developed.

- Some celebrate the Easter Liturgy as one service throughout the night, beginning on the evening of Holy Saturday and reaching its climax at dawn.

- Alternatively, some churches have the Vigil and the Service of Light on the Saturday night, leaving the baptismal and eucharistic liturgies to the Sunday morning.
Others gather on the Saturday evening or before dawn for a short Vigil, leaving the rest of the Easter Liturgy to be celebrated later in the day.

Yet others keep the Easter ceremonies for the main service on Easter Sunday morning, omitting the Vigil altogether.

Some relocate the worship to another significant place in or around the community.

However the Easter celebrations are structured and conducted, all possible variations derive from the one Easter Liturgy, which needs to be seen as a whole even if it is celebrated in distinct stages.

**The Easter Liturgy: Pattern A**

(The Service of Light followed by The Vigil)

**Structure**

- The Service of Light
  - [Marking of the Easter Candle]
  - The Lighting of the Easter Candle
  - The Exsultet
- The Vigil
  - Introduction to the Readings
  - Old Testament Readings
  - The Easter Acclamation
  - Gloria in Excelsis
  - The Collect
  - New Testament Reading
    - [Psalm]
  - Gospel Reading
  - Sermon
The Liturgy of Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates*

The Decision / Renewal of Baptismal Vows*†

Signing with the Cross*

Prayer over the Water*†

Profession of Faith*†

Baptism*

[Declarations]

Confirmation*

[Affirmation of Baptismal Faith]

[Reception into the Communion of the Church of England]

[Commission]

Welcome*

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of Communion

Prayer after Communion

The Dismissal
The Blessing

[Giving of a Lighted Candle]

The Dismissal

* indicates elements of the service of Holy Baptism and/or Confirmation (Common Worship: Christian Initiation, pages 106-125) required if baptism and confirmation are to be administered during this service.

† indicates elements of the Liturgy of Initiation required whether or not baptism and/or confirmation are to be administered.

Notes

1 The Place

According to local circumstances, the Vigil may be kept in a different place from the rest of the Easter Liturgy. If there is a crypt that might be particularly appropriate.

2 Silence

Silence is an important aspect of the waiting and should form a key element of the Vigil, even if it is to be informal in nature. Silence should also be observed at the points prescribed in the rubrics of the Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion (here).

3 Lighting of the Building

During the Vigil the building should be lit by the Easter Candle and the candles held by the individual participants. If possible, no other lights should be used. It is desirable for the building to be as dark as possible during the Vigil. If the Easter Candle cannot illuminate the place from which the Bible is read during the Vigil, the lights surrounding that place should be lit directly from it.

4 Marking the Easter Candle

The Marking of the Easter Candle may take place at the beginning of the Service of Light during the acclamation ‘Christ yesterday and today ...’ (see here).

5 The Lighting of the Taper for the Easter Candle

According to ancient tradition, the light for the Easter Candle was taken from newly kindled fire and not from an already existing source of light. It may also be brought in from a vestry or another adjoining room. Whatever fire or taper is used it should not be possible to confuse it with the Easter Candle.

If the Easter Candle is to be lit from a newly kindled fire the Easter Liturgy may begin outside the church building.
6  Lighting the Easter Candle

Where possible, the ministers should go to the entrance of the church without passing through the building itself. If a fire is lit outside the building, it is desirable for the people not to remain inside the building but to gather around the fire and to follow the ministers in the procession into the church.

7  The Easter Candle

The Easter Candle should be placed in a prominent position from Easter Day until Pentecost, and it is traditional for it to be lit at all principal services during this period. It should also be used at baptism and may be used at funerals throughout the year. Where a number of different congregations come together to celebrate the Easter Liturgy, only one Easter Candle should be used. If it is desired to take Easter Candles back to other churches, they may be lit from the first candle at the end of the service and carried in procession out of the building. For a rite for Welcoming the Easter Candle into the Church, see here.

8  Candles

Small, unlit candles should be distributed to members of the congregation before the service begins. These will be lit from the Easter Candle during the Service of Light. They should be extinguished during the singing of the Gloria in excelsis when the church lights are illuminated. They may be lit again for the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows and the Dismissal.

9  When to use the Easter Acclamation

The Easter Acclamation is first used immediately before the Gloria in excelsis. It may be said or sung, and may be repeated as many times as desired, with gradually increasing volume. It may be used again at any appropriate point later in the service.

10  Noise, Music and Light

After the Easter Acclamation the joy of the resurrection is properly demonstrated by noise, bells, music etc. This may continue into and through the singing of the Gloria in excelsis.

It is not appropriate for bells to be rung before the Easter Liturgy or for organ music to be used until after the Easter Acclamation. If possible, bells should be rung at the end of the service.

11  The Readings

A wide variety of possible readings has been provided. Unless it is intended that the Vigil should last right through the night, it is suggested that an appropriate selection is made according to the length of time available. See the Notes to the Vigil (here).

It is desirable that the reading from Genesis 1 be used. The Exodus 14 reading should always be used.
12 The Vigil Responses and Collects

If Pattern A is followed, the christological responses before the collects should be used during the sequence of readings, as each Scripture passage, read by the light of the Easter Candle, is understood in the light of who Christ truly is.

13 The Liturgy of Initiation

If there are candidates for baptism and/or confirmation, the Liturgy of Baptism and/or Confirmation should be woven into the fabric of the whole Easter Liturgy, in the way indicated here.

For clarity, the whole text of the baptismal liturgy for candidates who are able to answer for themselves has been included in the rite. Rubrics indicate the alterations which should be made when there are no candidates for baptism.

If possible, the candidates for baptism should not enter the church beyond the font until after they are baptized.

14 Intercessions

Intercessions, especially for the newly baptized and confirmed, may be said; or the names of the newly baptized and confirmed might be mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer G, as follows:

Strengthen those who have now become your people through the waters of rebirth and the gift of the Holy Spirit: N, N and N.

Help them to walk in newness of life.

The Prayer of Humble Access (here) may be used immediately prior to the Giving of Communion.

15 Liturgical Colour

The liturgical colour is white or gold.

The Easter Liturgy: Pattern A

 unparalleled

1 The Service of Light

The building being in darkness, the ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Easter Candle.

All stand and face the ministers.

The president 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.

The new fire may be kindled. One of these prayers may be used

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.

(or)

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

Your steadfast love extends to the heavens
and your faithfulness never ceases.

Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom
and strengthen our lives with your word,

for you are the fountain of life;

in your light we see true light.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All  Blessed be God for ever.

A minister brings the Easter Candle to the president, who traces the cross and then the Greek letter Alpha (Α) above and the Greek letter Omega (Ω) below it. The numbers of the current year are marked in the space between the arms of the cross, as in the diagram below.

As the vertical of the cross is traced the president says

Christ, yesterday and today,

As the horizontal is traced the president says

the beginning and the end,

As the Alpha is traced

Alpha

As the Omega is traced

and Omega,

As the first number of the year is traced the president says
all time belongs to him,

As the second number is traced

and all ages;

As the third number is traced

to him be glory and power,

As the fourth number is traced

through every age and for ever.

All Amen.

Five nails or incense studs may then be inserted into the Candle, reminding us of the five wounds of Christ. Each stud is placed in the Candle at the points marked, in the order indicated by the numbers. As each is inserted the president says

1
By his holy

4
guard us and glorious
wounds

2 and keep us.

3
may Christ our Lord

The president lights the Easter Candle, saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The minister bearing the Candle enters the building, followed by the other ministers, and they pause just inside the entrance.

The minister bearing the Candle raises it and says or sings

The light of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.
The following chant may be used

The procession of the Easter Candle moves further into the building and then stops. The versicle and response are repeated (if sung, at a higher pitch), and the candles of those around are lit from the Easter Candle.

The procession continues to the centre of the building and stops once more. The versicle and response are again repeated (if sung, at a yet higher pitch), and the candles of those around are lit.

The Easter Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the building.

The Exsultet

*The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) may be sung or said by a minister standing near the Candle. For notes and other forms of the Exsultet, see [here](#).* For music, see [here](#).

*Either* The minister sings the introduction

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

O Universe, dance around God's throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,

radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!

Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!

Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.
Alternatively, the Introduction could be sung by the whole congregation to a tune of the metre 10.10.10.10 using the following form (see here).

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

Around God’s throne exult in harmony!

Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!

Salute your King in glorious symphony!

Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!

The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!

Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!

The night is past, the day of life is here!

Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!

The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!

Your Saviour lives; he’s with you evermore!

Let all God’s people sound the long Amen!

The minister continues

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices

we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,

through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

who has saved us by his death,

paid the price of Adam’s sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.

*All* [Glory to you for ever.]

For this is the Passover feast,

when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain

whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

*All* [Glory to you for ever.]

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.]

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost;

beyond our deepest dreams

you made even our sin a happy fault.

*All* [Glory to you for ever.]

Most blessed of all nights!
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

*All* [Glory to you for ever.]

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth
and all creation reconciled to you.

*All* [Glory to you for ever.]

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church’s solemn offering†

*[this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.]*

*All* [Glory to you for ever.]

*As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame*

*fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee.]*

† *The text in square brackets may be omitted (see here).*

grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

*All* Amen.

¶ *The Vigil*

*A hymn may be sung, during which lights are taken from the Easter Candle to illuminate the Bible from which the Vigil readings will be read.*

*The president may introduce the Vigil using these or other appropriate words*
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.

Any of the readings suggested here (with or without the accompanying psalms and prayers) or other suitable passages of Scripture may be used.

The Easter Acclamation

The president says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made.

Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria in excelsis is used, during which all the candles in the church are lit from the Easter Candle, the lights are switched on and the people’s candles extinguished.

All Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

**President**  Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord of all life and power,

who through the mighty resurrection of your Son

overcame the old order of sin and death

to make all things new in him:

grant that we, being dead to sin

and alive to you in Jesus Christ,

may reign with him in glory;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

be praise and honour, glory and might,

now and in all eternity.

**All**  Amen.

**(or)**

God of glory,

by the raising of your Son

you have broken the chains of death and hell:

fill your Church with faith and hope;

for a new day has dawned

and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All**  Amen.

**New Testament Reading**

_Romans 6.3-11_

_At the end the reader may say_

This is the word of the Lord.

**All**  Thanks be to God.

**Psalm**

_Psalm 114 may be said or sung._

_Psalm response:_

**All**  Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel Reading**

_Either of these acclamations may herald the Gospel reading_

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

**All**  Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.

**All**  Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

**All**  Alleluia.

He has the words of eternal life.

**All**  Alleluia.

(or)

Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

_All Alleluia._

_When the Gospel is announced the reader says_

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _N_.

_All Glory to you, O Lord._

_Year A: Matthew 28.1-10_

_Year B: Mark 16.1-8_

_Year C: Luke 24.1-12_

_At the end_

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

_All Praise to you, O Christ._

_Sermon_

¶ _The Liturgy of Initiation_

_If there are candidates for baptism and/or confirmation, they gather with the president at the baptismal font. The congregation gathers at or faces the baptismal font. A canticle, psalm, hymn or litany may be used (see here)._ 

_The president says_

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

_Presentation of the Candidates_

_If there are no candidates for baptism and/or confirmation, this section is omitted._

_The candidates may be presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their sponsors._
The president asks the candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

(If there are candidates for confirmation, see Common Worship: Christian Initiation, page 111.)

Testimony by the candidates may follow.

The president addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

All With the help of God, we will.

The Decision / Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The president addresses the congregation and candidates for baptism and/or confirmation

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

All I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All I renounce them.

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

All I repent of them.
Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

*All*  I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

*All*  I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

*All*  I come to Christ.

_Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the alternative form of the Decision (Common Worship: Christian Initiation, page 168) may be used._

If there are no candidates for baptism, the president may say

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ, give you the strength to continue in the Way.

**Signing with the Cross**

_If there are no candidates for baptism, this section is omitted._

*The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

_The president may invite their sponsors to sign the candidates with the sign of the cross. When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the president says to them_

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

*All  Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ*

against sin, the world and the devil,

and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,

restore in you the image of his glory,

and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

*All  Amen.*
Prayer over the Water

The president stands before the water of baptism and says or sings the Prayer over the Water.

For music, see here.

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ

was baptized in the river Jordan,

we thank you for the gift of water

to cleanse us and revive us.

[Saving God,

All give us life.†]

† The bracketed refrain Saving God, give us life is optional. If it is used, it may be said or sung by all.

The first phrase Saving God (italicized) may be said or sung by a deacon or other minister.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea

you led your people out of slavery

to freedom in the Promised Land.

[Saving God,

All give us life.]

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son,

and raised him to life in triumph.

[Saving God,

All give us life.]
Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

[ Saving God, 

All give us life.]

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

Profession of Faith

The president addresses the congregation and candidates for baptism and/or confirmation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess [with these candidates] the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All 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?

All 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.

*Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the alternative Profession of Faith (Common Worship: Christian Initiation, page 178) may be used.*

**Baptism**

*If there are candidates for baptism, the president may say to each one*

*N, is this your faith?*

*Each candidate answers in their own words, or*

*This is my faith.*

*The president or another minister dips each candidate in water, or pours water on them, saying*

*N, I baptize you*

*in the name of the Father,*

*and of the Son,*

*and of the Holy Spirit.*

*All Amen.*

*If the newly baptized are clothed with a white robe, a hymn or song may be used, and then a minister may say*

You have been clothed with Christ.
As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

*If those who have been baptized were not signed with the cross immediately after the Decision, the president signs each one now.*

*The president says*

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,

pour upon you the riches of his grace,

that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people

you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,

and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

_All_ Amen.

*Whether or not there have been baptisms, hymns or songs may be sung as the waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people. Alternatively, each member of the congregation may be invited to renew their commitment to Christ by going to the water and making the sign of the cross with it on their forehead.*

*The president says*

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith

with all who have been baptized in your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism,

and so make us ready for that day

when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

_All_ Amen.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,

that you may be rooted and grounded in love

and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.
All Amen.

Confirmation

If there are candidates for confirmation, see Common Worship: Christian Initiation, page 118-119.

Commission

If candidates have been baptized or confirmed, the president may use this Commission here or at the beginning of the Sending Out

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,

in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,

and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example

the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,

loving your neighbour as yourself?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,

by prayer for the world and its leaders,

by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

**With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,

that you may be rooted and grounded in love.
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

_All_ Amen.

**Welcome**

*If baptism has not been administered, this section is omitted.*

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

_N and N_, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

_All_ We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;

we are children of the same heavenly Father;

we welcome you.

*The congregation may greet the newly baptized.*

¶  _The Liturgy of the Eucharist_

*The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows* [here].

**The Easter Liturgy: Pattern B**

(The Vigil followed by The Service of Light)

_**Structure**_

* indicates elements of the service of Holy Baptism and/or Confirmation (Common Worship: Christian Initiation, pages 106-125) required if baptism and confirmation are to be administered during this service.

† indicates elements of the Liturgy of Initiation required whether or not baptism and/or confirmation are to be administered.

¶  _The Vigil_

Lighting the Fire (or the lights by which the readings are read)

Introduction to the Readings

Readings, Psalms and Prayers
The Service of Light

[Marking of the Easter Candle]

Presentation of the Candidates*

The Decision / Renewal of Baptismal Vows*†

The Lighting of the Easter Candle

Signing with the Cross*

The Exsultet

The Easter Acclamation

Gloria in Excelsis

The Collect

New Testament Reading

[Psalm]

Gospel Reading

Sermon

The Liturgy of Initiation

Prayer over the Water*†

Profession of Faith*†

Baptism*

[Declarations]

Confirmation*

[Affirmation of Baptismal Faith]

[Reception into the Communion of the Church of England]

[Commission]
Welcome

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of Communion

Prayer after Communion

The Dismissal

The Blessing

[Giving of a Lighted Candle]

The Dismissal

Notes

1 The Place

The Vigil should, where possible, be kept in a place other than the church. This may be a hall, a crypt or outside gathered around a bonfire. The congregation could then move outside for the lighting of the new fire and the Easter Candle, and process into a dark church behind the Easter Candle.

2 Lighting for the Vigil

It must be possible within the overall darkness of the building or gathering place where this part of the liturgy is celebrated to read the Scriptures which are at its core. This section should begin with the lighting of a small fire or an oil lamp or a small electric light, possibly coloured, solely to enable this to happen.

If a fire is lit for the purpose of providing light for the Old Testament Scriptures to be read, this should be the fire which is later blessed in the
Service of Light and from which the Easter Candle is lit. If possible, the lighting of two fires should be avoided.

If the Vigil is to stand alone, all lights should be extinguished at the end. Alternatively, they may be put out gradually during the reading of the Passion Narrative, where this is included.

3 The Readings

A wide variety of possible readings has been provided. Unless it is intended that the Vigil should last through the night, it is suggested that an appropriate selection is made according to the length of time available. See the Notes to the Vigil (here).

It is desirable that the reading from Genesis 1 be used. Exodus 14 should always be used. If the Vigil stands alone as a service, it may end with the reading of part or all of one of the narratives of the Passion, during or after which all the lights may be extinguished.

4 The Vigil Prayers

If Pattern B is followed the ‘Blessed are you …’ prayers, introduced by the biddings, should be used during the sequence of readings.

5 Silence

Silence is an important aspect of the waiting and should form a key element of the Vigil, even if the service is to be informal in nature. Silence should also be observed at the points prescribed in the rubrics of the Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion (see here).

6 Marking the Easter Candle

The Marking of the Easter Candle may be done as an activity at some point during the Vigil. Alternatively it may take place at the beginning of the Service of Light during the acclamation ‘Christ yesterday and today…’ (see here).

7 The Lighting of the Taper for the Easter Candle

According to ancient tradition, the light for the Easter Candle was taken from newly kindled fire and not from an already existing source of light. Therefore, if possible, the taper used to light the Easter Candle should be lit from whatever light has been used to illuminate the Bible for the Vigil readings. It may also be brought in from a vestry or another adjoining room. Whatever fire or taper is used it should not be possible to confuse it with the Easter Candle.

8 The Easter Candle

The Easter Candle should be placed in a prominent position from Easter Day until Pentecost, and it is traditional for it to be lit at all principal services during this period. It should also be used at baptism and may be used at funerals throughout the year. Where a number of different congregations come together to celebrate the Easter Liturgy, only one Easter Candle should be used. If it is desired to take Easter Candles back to other churches, they may be lit from the first candle at the end of the service and carried in procession out of the building. For a rite for
Welcoming the Easter Candle into the church (see here).

9 Candles

Small, unlit candles should be distributed to members of the congregation either before the Vigil or before the Service of Light. These will be lit from the Easter Candle in the course of the service, and should be extinguished during the singing of the Gloria in excelsis when the church lights are illuminated. They may be lit again for the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows and at the Dismissal.

10 When to use the Easter Acclamation

The Easter Acclamation is first used immediately before the Gloria in excelsis. It may be said or sung, and may be repeated as many times as desired, with gradually increasing volume. It may be used again at any appropriate point later in the service.

11 Noise, Music and Light

After the Easter Acclamation the joy of the resurrection is properly demonstrated by noise, bells, music, waving etc. This may continue into and through the singing of the Gloria in excelsis. It may also be suitable for such noise to accompany the acclamations after the Gospel reading.

It is not appropriate for bells to be rung before the Easter Liturgy or for organ music to be used until after the Easter Acclamation. If possible, bells should be rung at the end of the service.

12 The Liturgy of Initiation

If there are candidates for baptism and/or confirmation, the Liturgy of Baptism and/or Confirmation should be woven into the fabric of the whole Easter Liturgy. This may be done in the way indicated here.

For clarity, the whole text of the baptismal liturgy for candidates who are able to answer for themselves has been included in the rite. Rubrics indicate the alterations which should be made when there are no candidates for baptism.

Alternatively, the following may be omitted from the Service of Light:

- The Presentation of the Candidates
- The Decision / Renewal of Baptismal Vows (except for the Lighting of the Easter Candle)
- The Signing with the Cross

In this case, the Liturgy of Initiation from Pattern A (here) should be used.

If possible, the candidates for baptism should not enter the church beyond the font until after they are baptized.

13 Intercessions
Intercessions, especially for the newly baptized and confirmed, may be said; or the names of the newly baptized and confirmed might be mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer G, as follows:

Strengthen those who have now become your people through the waters of rebirth and the gift of the Holy Spirit: N, N and N. Help them to walk in newness of life.

The Prayer of Humble Access (here) may be used immediately prior to the Giving of Communion.

14 Liturgical Colour

The liturgical colour is white or gold.

The Easter Liturgy: Pattern B

The Vigil

The ministers enter in silence.

If the reading of the creation story is not used in the Vigil a minister reads these verses

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 a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.

*Genesis 1.1*

The light by which the readings are to be read is lit.

The minister says one of these prayers

Lighten our darkness,

Lord, we pray,

and in your great mercy

defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,

for the love of your only Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.
Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

Your steadfast love extends to the heavens
and your faithfulness never ceases.

Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom
and strengthen our lives with your word,
for you are the fountain of life;

in your light we see true light.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All  Blessed be God for ever.

The president may introduce the Vigil using these or other appropriate words

This is the night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life. The Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

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

Any of the readings suggested here (with or without the accompanying psalms and prayers) or other suitable passages of Scripture may be used.

The Service of Light

The building being in darkness, the ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Easter Candle.

If a fire has not already been lit, the new fire is lit at this point. If a fire has already been lit around which the congregation has gathered for the Vigil, that fire may then be blessed as the new fire from which the Easter Candle is lit.

All stand and face the ministers.

The president says
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.

A minister brings the Easter Candle to the president, who traces the cross and then the Greek letter Alpha (A) above and the Greek letter Omega (Ω) below it. The numbers of the current year are marked in the space between the arms of the cross, as in the diagram below.

As the vertical of the cross is traced the president says
Christ, yesterday and today,

As the horizontal is traced the president says
the beginning and the end,

As the Alpha is traced
Alpha

As the Omega is traced
and Omega,

As the first number of the year is traced the president says

all time belongs to him,

As the second number is traced

and all ages;

As the third number is traced

to him be glory and power,

As the fourth number is traced

through every age and for ever.

All Amen.

Five nails or incense studs may then be inserted into the Candle, reminding us of the five wounds of Christ. Each stud is placed in the Candle at the points marked, in the order indicated by the numbers. As each is inserted the president says

1
By his holy

4
guard us

2 and glorious

wounds

5 and keep us.

The Decision / Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Standing before the Candle, the president addresses the congregation and candidates for baptism and/or confirmation

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
All I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All I renounce them.

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

All I repent of them.

The president lights the Easter Candle, saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The president says

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

All I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

All I come to Christ.

If there are no candidates for baptism, the president may say

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,

give you the strength to continue in the Way.

Signing with the Cross

If there are no candidates for baptism, this section is omitted.

The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying
Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of the cross.

*The president may invite their sponsors to sign the candidates with the sign of the cross. When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the president says to them*

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

*All*  
**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ**

against sin, the world and the devil,

and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,

restore in you the image of his glory,

and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

*All*  
**Amen.**

*The minister bearing the Candle enters the building, followed by the other ministers, and they pause just inside the entrance.*

*The minister bearing the Candle raises it and says or sings*

The light of Christ.

*All*  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The following chant may be used*

\[\text{The light of Christ.}\]

\[\text{Thanks be to God.}\]

*The procession of the Easter Candle moves further into the building and then stops. The versicle and response are repeated (if sung, at a higher pitch), and the candles of those around are lit from the Easter Candle.***

*The procession continues to the centre of the building and stops once more. The versicle and response are again repeated (if sung, at a yet higher pitch), and the candles of those around are lit.*

*The Easter Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the building.*
The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) may be sung or said by a minister standing near the Candle. For notes and other forms of the Exsultet, see here.

For music, see here.

**Either** The minister sings the Introduction

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

O Universe, dance around God's throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,

radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!

Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!

Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

**Or** Alternatively, the Introduction could be sung by the whole congregation to a tune of the metre 10.10.10.10 using the following form (see here).

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

Around God's throne exult in harmony!

Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!

Salute your King in glorious symphony!

Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!

The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!

Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!

The night is past, the day of life is here!

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

*The minister continues*

The Lord be with you

*All* and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

*All* We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,

through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

who has saved us by his death, paid the price of Adam’s sin,

and reconciled us once again to you.

*All* [Glory to you for ever.]

For this is the Passover feast,

when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain

whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

*All* [Glory to you for ever.]

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.]*

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams
you made even our sin a happy fault.

*All [Glory to you for ever.]*

Most blessed of all nights!
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

*All [Glory to you for ever.]*

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth
and all creation reconciled to you.

*All [Glory to you for ever.]*

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering,

*this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.*
All [Glory to you for ever.]

As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame

fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee.]

† The text in square brackets may be omitted (see here).

grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;

Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!

Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!

Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

All Amen.

The Easter Acclamation

The president says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made.

Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria in excelsis is used, during which all the candles in the church are lit from the Easter Candle, the lights are switched on and the people's candles extinguished.

All Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

President Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Silence is kept.

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

All Amen.
God of glory,

by the raising of your Son

you have broken the chains of death and hell:

fill your Church with faith and hope;

for a new day has dawned

and the way to life stands open

in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All   Amen.

New Testament Reading

Romans 6.3-11

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All   Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 114 may be said or sung.

Psalm response:

All   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Either of these acclamations may herald the Gospel reading

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

All   Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.
Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

Alleluia.

He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

(or)

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

Alleluia.

Year A: Matthew 28.1-10

Year B: Mark 16.1-8

Year C: Luke 24.1-12

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Alleluia.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Liturgy of Initiation
If there are candidates for baptism and/or confirmation, they gather with the president at the baptismal font. The congregation gathers at or faces the baptismal font. A conticle, psalm, hymn or litany may be used (see here).

**Prayer over the Water**

_The president stands before the water of baptism and says or sings the Prayer over the Water._

_For music, see here._

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

*All* who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ

was baptized in the river Jordan,

we thank you for the gift of water

to cleanse us and revive us.

[Saving God,

*All* give us life.†]

† *The bracketed refrain Saving God, give us life is optional. If it is used, it may be said or sung by all._

_The first phrase Saving God (italicized) may be said or sung by a deacon or other minister._

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea

you led your people out of slavery

to freedom in the Promised Land.

[Saving God,

*All* give us life.]

We thank you that through the deep waters of death

you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.

[Saving God,

All give us life.]

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

[Saving God,

All give us life.]

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

Profession of Faith

The president addresses the congregation and candidates for baptism and/or confirmation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess [with these candidates] the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All 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?

**All** 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.

*Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the alternative Profession of Faith (Common Worship: Christian Initiation, page 178) may be used.*

**Baptism**

*If there are candidates for baptism, the president may say to each one*

*N, is this your faith?*

*Each candidate answers in their own words, or*

**This is my faith.**

*The president or another minister dips each candidate in water, or pours water on them, saying*

*N, I baptize you*

in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
If the newly baptized are clothed with a white robe, a hymn or song may be used, and then a minister may say

You have been clothed with Christ.

As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

If those who have been baptized were not signed with the cross immediately after the Decision, the president signs each one now.

The president says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,

pour upon you the riches of his grace,

that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people

you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,

and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All Amen.

Whether or not there have been baptisms, hymns or songs may be sung as the waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people. Alternatively, each member of the congregation may be invited to renew their commitment to Christ by going to the water and making the sign of the cross with it on their forehead.

The president says

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith

with all who have been baptized in your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism,

and so make us ready for that day

when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.
May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

*All*  Amen.

**Confirmation**

*If there are candidates for confirmation, see Common Worship: Christian Initiation, page 118-119.*

**Commission**

*If candidates have been baptized or confirmed, the president may use this Commission here or at the beginning of the Sending Out*

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*With the help of God, I will.*

Will you persevere in resisting evil,

and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*With the help of God, I will.*

Will you proclaim by word and example

the good news of God in Christ?

*With the help of God, I will.*

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,

loving your neighbour as yourself?

*With the help of God, I will.*

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,

by prayer for the world and its leaders,

by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?
With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,

that you may be rooted and grounded in love

and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

_All_ Amen.

Welcome

If baptism has not been administered, this section is omitted.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

_N and N_, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

_All_ We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;

we are children of the same heavenly Father;

we welcome you.

_The congregation may greet the newly baptized._

¶  _The Liturgy of the Eucharist_

The Peace

_The president says_

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,

‘Peace be with you.’

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

_All_ and also with you. Alleluia.

_These words may be added_
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

_All may exchange a sign of peace, greeting one another with these words_

Christ is risen.

**Preparation of the Table**

**Taking of the Bread and Wine**

_A hymn may be sung. If the people have gathered at the place of baptism they should now move to gather around the holy table._

_The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented._

_The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it._

_One of these prayers at the preparation of the table may be said_

Lord of life,

with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.

As we are fed with the bread of heaven

may we know your resurrection power;

through Christ our risen Lord.

_All_ Amen.

(or)

Be present, be present,

Lord Jesus Christ,

our risen high priest;

make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

_All_ Amen.

_The president takes the bread and wine._
The Eucharistic Prayer

The president uses one of the authorized Eucharistic Prayers (here). For music, see here.

One of the following Proper Prefaces may be used where appropriate. For music, see here.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and on this night of our redemption
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

(or)

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.

For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.

By his death he has destroyed death,

and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Rejoicing in God’s new creation,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All** Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.

(or)

Rejoicing in God’s new creation,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

*All*  Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.

*The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken*

*All*  Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.
All  Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president says

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All  Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The president and people receive communion.

The following or other authorized words of distribution are used

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.

The Common Worship provision is followed for consecration of additional bread and wine and for disposing of what remains (here and here).

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

This Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said

God of Life,

who for our redemption 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:

grant us so to die daily to sin,

that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The president says either

God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,

open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All Amen.

God the Son,

who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,

give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,

who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

\textit{All} Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

\textit{All} Amen.

(or)

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.

\textit{All} Amen.

\textit{A hymn may be sung.}

\textit{The candles of the congregation are re-lit.}

\textbf{Giving of a Lighted Candle}

\textit{If baptism has not been administered, this section is omitted.}

\textit{The president or another person may give each of the newly baptized a lighted candle, lit from the Easter Candle.}

\textit{When all the newly baptized have received a candle, the president says}
God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

The Dismissal

A minister says or sings

With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

(or)

The Vigil

Notes

1 The Setting

Most congregations will keep the Easter Vigil in the church but, according to local circumstances, in Pattern B it may be kept in a different place from the rest of the Easter Liturgy, especially if the church has already been decorated for the Easter celebration. This may be a crypt, a church hall, a smaller chapel within the church or a baptistery. It may be kept outside around a bonfire or any other suitable place.

2 A Variety of Styles

The Vigil may be handled in a number of different ways, ranging from the purely formal to the totally informal. The formal approach may use the reading, the silence, the psalm and the collect as set. A sermon may be preached after some or all of the readings. On the other hand there may be children present, which necessitates a more informal approach. The Bible readings could be read dramatically using different voices, or...
enacted. Each reading could be followed by silence, interactive Bible study, artistic activity, discussion, testimony, drama, intercession, singing or whatever is appropriate for the context. Choruses, spiritual songs or appropriate hymnody could replace the psalm. If Pattern B is followed, the Marking of the Easter Candle could be an activity in response to one of the readings, as could other preparatory actions for the Baptismal Liturgy such as filling a baptismal ewer. If the Vigil is to last all night there could be specific points for eating and drinking that are related to the readings.

Even if an informal style is to be adopted for the Vigil, opportunities for silence should be available, either as part of the structure of the worship or as a physical place where silence can be encountered by the participants.

3 Lighting

If Pattern B is followed, it is desirable for the building to be as dark as possible during the Vigil, except for essential lighting. However, it is important that some light is provided by which the Bible can be seen for the readings. This could be a small bonfire, or an oil lamp, or a small electric light, possibly coloured. It is important that this form of light should not be confused with the Easter Candle which will be used later. For some elements of the liturgy more light may be needed. The provision of extra lighting at key moments in the narrative may enhance the dramatic effect of the readings.

4 The Prayers and Responses

A choice of two very different styles of prayer has been offered to accompany each of the readings.

- The first style follows a traditional collect structure and may be introduced by a christological response. The prayer then relates the reading to the work of Christ. It is suggested that these responses and collects should be used with Pattern A, where the Vigil readings are read by the light of the Easter Candle and therefore a christological emphasis is appropriate.

- The second style, beginning ‘Blessed are you …’, reflects the theme of the reading without referring directly to the work of Christ. It is therefore more appropriately used in the story-telling approach of Pattern B.

5 The Choice of Readings

A wide variety of readings has been provided, from which an appropriate selection may be made according to the length of time available. The selection could follow different routes through the reading, each following a particular theme or motif. Some examples are offered below, though others may be devised. However, a minimum of three Old Testament readings should be chosen. It is desirable that the reading from Genesis 1 be used. The reading from Exodus 14 should always be used.

*Baptismal Theme*

*Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a The Creation*

*Genesis 7 etc Noah and the flood*
Jonah 1.1 – 2.10 Jonah and the fish

**Exodus 14 etc** Crossing the Red Sea

Ezekiel 36.24-28 Sprinkled with the water of life

Ezekiel 47.1-12 The river of life

*Women in Salvation*

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a The Creation

Genesis 3 The Fall

Exodus 12.1-24 The Passover

**Exodus 14 etc** Crossing the Red Sea

Ruth 1.1 etc The faithfulness of Ruth

1 Samuel 1.1-end Hannah and the birth of Samuel

Baruch 3 etc In praise of wisdom

*or Proverbs 8 etc*

Baruch 3 etc The Lord is like a mother

*or Isaiah 66.1 etc*

*Salvation Theme*

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a The Creation

Genesis 3 The Fall

Genesis 7 etc Noah and the flood

Exodus 3.1-6 Moses and the burning bush

**Exodus 14 etc** Crossing the Red Sea

Jonah 1.1 – 2.10 Jonah and the fish

Daniel 3.1-28 The three young men in the furnace
The Vigil Readings

A minimum of three Old Testament readings should be chosen. It is desirable that the reading from Genesis 1 be used. The reading from Exodus 14 should always be used.

Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a The Creation
Genesis 3 The Fall

Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-19; 9.8-13 Noah and the flood

Genesis 22.1-18 Abraham and Isaac

Exodus 3.1-6 Moses and the burning bush

Exodus 12.1-24 The Passover

Exodus 14.10-end; 15.1a Crossing the Red Sea

Ruth 1.15-18; 2.1-13; 4.13-17 The faithfulness of Ruth

1 Samuel 1.1-end Hannah and the birth of Samuel

Proverbs 8.1-8, 19-21; 9.4b-6 In praise of wisdom

Isaiah 54.5-15 I will save you from all your afflictions

Isaiah 55.1-11 Let us return to the Lord who saves us

Isaiah 66.6-16 The Lord is like a mother

Jeremiah 31.31-34 God promises a new heart

Ezekiel 36.24-28 Sprinkled with the water of life

Ezekiel 37.1-14 The valley of dry bones

Ezekiel 47.1-12 The river of life

Daniel 3.1-28 The three young men in the furnace

Daniel 6.1-24 Daniel in the lions' den

Jonah 1.1 – 2.10 Jonah and the fish

Zephaniah 3.14-end Jerusalem praises God

Baruch 3.9-15, 32 – 4.4 The commandments of life

The Vigil Readings, Psalms and Prayers
Gen 1–2: The Creation

Psalm 104.1-7

Refrain:

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

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.  [R]

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.  [R]

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.  [R]

Refrain:

All Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.
Prayer

With Pattern A

[Christ is the image of the unseen God;

All through him all things were made.]

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.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that we may see God’s image restored.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Your love cannot be contained

and overflows in the wonder of creation.

You formed the universe out of nothing

and moulded us from the clay of the earth.

All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.
Genesis 3:

The Fall

Psalm 51.1-7

Refrain:

All Have mercy on me, O God.

1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. [R]

3 For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

5 So that you are justified in your sentence and righteous in your judgement. [R]

6 I have been wicked even from my birth, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart. [R]
**Refrain:**

*All*  Have mercy on me, O God.

*Silence is kept.*

**Prayer**

*With Pattern A*

[As in Adam all die,

*All*  so in Christ shall all be made alive.]

Heavenly Father,

whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil

and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope,

may purify ourselves even as he is pure;

that when he shall appear in power and great glory

we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;

where he is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All*  Amen.

*With Pattern B*

Let us pray that our merciful God will show compassion

on all who fall victim to the power of sin.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
The sin which we dare not confront breaks your heart
and nothing can be concealed from your sight,
yet you showed mercy to our ancestors.

Show mercy today to all who fall prey to sin's lure,
and shatter the power of evil,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

¶  Genesis 7, 8, 9:

Noah and the flood

Genesis 7.1-5,11-18; 8.6-19; 9.8-13

Psalm 36

Refrain:

All The Lord makes my darkness to be bright.

1 Sin whispers to the wicked, in the depths of their heart; [R]

there is no fear of God before their eyes.

2 They flatter themselves in their own eyes [R]

that their abominable sin will not be found out. [R]

3 The words of their mouth are unrighteous and full of deceit; [R]

they have ceased to act wisely and to do good.

4 They think out mischief upon their beds

and have set themselves in no good way; [R]

nor do they abhor that which is evil. [R]
5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you, Lord, shall save both man and beast. [R]

7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God; All mortal flesh shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

8 They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; they shall drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light. [R]

10 O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

11 Let not the foot of pride come against me, nor the hand of the ungodly thrust me away.

12 There are they fallen, all who work wickedness. They are cast down and shall not be able to stand. [R]

Refrain:

All The Lord makes my darkness to be bright.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A
[In baptism we died to sin.

**All**  *In Christ we are raised to life.*

Grant, Lord,

that we who are baptized into the death

of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

may continually put to death our evil desires

and be buried with him;

and that through the grave and gate of death

we may pass to our joyful resurrection;

through his merits,

who died and was buried and rose again for us,

your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**  Amen.

*With Pattern B*

Let us pray that God will wash away all that corrupts his work

and restore in us the beauty for which we were made.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In your perfect justice you hate the world's sin.

Noah and his family risked ridicule for your sake

yet their obedience brought them blessing.

Flood our world with the tide of your love

and rid us of all that disfigures your glorious creation,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.
All  Amen.

¶  Genesis 22:

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 22.1-18

Psalm 16.6-end

Refrain:

All  In your presence is the fullness of joy.

6  I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,  

and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

7  I have set the Lord always before me;  

he is at my right hand; I shall not fall. [R]

8  Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;  

my flesh also shall rest secure.

9  For you will not abandon my soul to Death,  

nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

10  You will show me the path of life;  

in your presence is the fullness of joy  

and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. [R]

Refrain:

All  In your presence is the fullness of joy.

Silence is kept.

Prayer
With Pattern A

[God so loved the world

All that he gave his only Son.]

Almighty God,

whose chosen servant Abraham

faithfully obeyed your call

and rejoiced in your promise

that, in him, all the families of the earth should be blessed:

give us a faith like his,

that, in us, your promises may be fulfilled;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that we may have the courage and strength
to make the sacrifices our faith demands.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Through the faithfulness of Abraham

al the children of earth are blessed.

Give us the courage to give up to you

those things that are most precious to us,

that in turn we may receive

the honour and the joy of your blessing,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.
Exodus 3:

Moses and the burning bush

Exodus 3.1-6

Psalm 27

Refrain:

All  Wait patiently for the Lord.

1  The Lord is my light and my salvation;

whom then shall I fear?  ¶

The Lord is the strength of my life;

of whom then shall I be afraid?

2  When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,

came upon me to eat up my flesh,  ¶

they stumbled and fell.

3  Though a host encamp against me,

my heart shall not be afraid,  ¶

and though there rise up war against me,

yet will I put my trust in him.  [R]

4  One thing have I asked of the Lord

and that alone I seek:  ¶

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life,
5 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord
and to seek his will in his temple. [R]

6 For in the day of trouble
he shall hide me in his shelter;
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me
and set me high upon a rock.

7 And now shall he lift up my head
above my enemies round about me;

8 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation
with great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the Lord. [R]

9 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy upon me and answer me.

10 My heart tells of your word; ‘Seek my face.’
Your face, Lord, will I seek. [R]

11 Hide not your face from me,
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.

12 You have been my helper;
leave me not, neither forsake, O God of my salvation. [R]

13 Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.

14 Teach me your way, O Lord;
lead me on a level path,
because of those who lie in wait for me.

15 Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, [R]

for false witnesses have risen up against me,

and those who breathe out violence. [R]

16 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord [R]

in the land of the living.

17 Wait for the Lord;

be strong and he shall comfort your heart; [R]

wait patiently for the Lord. [R]

Refrain:

All Wait patiently for the Lord.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Your faith is tested by fire

All to the praise and glory of Christ.]

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit

upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:

grant that your people may be fervent

in the fellowship of the gospel

that, always abiding in you,

they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Let us pray for a renewed vision for the people of God
and a new commitment to break the chains of oppression.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You revealed yourself to your servant Moses
in the awesome wonder of the burning bush
and appointed him to lead your people
to freedom in the promised land.

By the fire of your Spirit today reveal yourself afresh
and strengthen us to free the enslaved
and break the bonds of the captive,
that they may openly sing your praise,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All  Amen.

Exodus 12: The Passover

Exodus 12.1-24

Psalm 77.11-end

Refrain:

All  With a mighty arm you redeem your people.

11  I will remember the works of the Lord
and call to mind your wonders of old time.

12 I will meditate on all your works  

and ponder your mighty deeds. [R]

13 Your way, O God, is holy;  

who is so great a god as our God?

14 You are the God who worked wonders  

and declared your power among the peoples.

15 With a mighty arm you redeemed your people,  

the children of Jacob and Joseph. [R]

16 The waters saw you, O God;  

the waters saw you and were afraid;  

the depths also were troubled.

17 The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered;  

your arrows flashed on every side;  

18 The voice of your thunder was in the whirlwind;  

your lightnings lit up the ground;  

the earth trembled and shook. [R]

19 Your way was in the sea, and your paths in the great waters,  

but your footsteps were not known.

20 You led your people like sheep  

by the hand of Moses and Aaron. [R]

Refrain:

All  With a mighty arm you redeem your people.
Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast.]

God our Father,
you have invited us to share in the supper
which your Son gave to his Church
to proclaim his death until he comes:
may he nourish us by his presence,
and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that God will feed and sustain his people
through the hard journeys of this life.
Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
With the dawning of their deliverance
your people ate the feast of freedom.
As Christ our Passover Lamb
gives hope to the hopeless and frees the ensnared,
establish the justice for which your heart yearns,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

_Amen._

¶  **Exodus 14:**

_Crossing the Red Sea_

(This reading must be used.)

Exodus 14.10-end; 15.1a

_The Song of Moses and Miriam_

_Refrain:_

_Amen_  I will sing to the Lord,

who has triumphed gloriously.

1  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.  [R]

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.  [R]

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. [R]

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. [R]

Exodus 15.1b-3,6,10,13,17

Refrain:

All I will sing to the Lord,  

who has triumphed gloriously.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast.

(or)

The Lord is my strength and my might.

All He has become my salvation.]

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.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that God will give freedom to his enslaved people.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You heard the agony of your people

as they cried out from their slavery,

and you gave them Moses

to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today

and lead us through the turbulent sea of life

to our true home with you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

¶ Ruth 1, 2, 4:

The faithfulness of Ruth

Ruth 1.15-18; 2.1-13; 4.13-17

Psalm 61

Refrain:

All O God, listen to my prayer.
1  Hear my crying, O God,        ♦
    and listen to my prayer.

2  From the end of the earth I call to you with fainting heart; ♦
    O set me on the rock that is higher than I. [R]

3  For you are my refuge,        ♦
    a strong tower against the enemy.

4  Let me dwell in your tent for ever ♦
    and take refuge under the cover of your wings. [R]

5  For you, O God, will hear my vows; ♦
    you will grant the request of those who fear your name.

6  You will add length of days to the life of the king, ♦
    that his years may endure throughout all generations. [R]

7  May he sit enthroned before God for ever; ♦
    may steadfast love and truth watch over him.

8  So will I always sing praise to your name, ♦
    and day by day fulfil my vows. [R]

Refrain:

All  O God, listen to my prayer.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Christ remained faithful to death,

All  even death on a cross.]
Almighty God,

by whose grace alone we are accepted

and called to your service:

strengthen us by your Holy Spirit

and make us worthy of our calling;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All   Amen.

*With Pattern B*

Let us pray for perseverance and constancy in our walk of faith.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In leaving mother, father and her native land

to follow her mother-in-law,

Ruth foreshadows the faithfulness of Jesus.

As she worked tirelessly to sustain an earthly life,

give us perseverance as we walk with Jesus

on the way that leads to eternal life with you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All   Amen.

¶ 1 Samuel 1:

*Hannah and the birth of Samuel*

1 Samuel 1.1-end

*A Song of Hannah*
Refrain:

All My heart exults in the Lord.

1 My heart exults in the Lord; ♦
my strength is exalted in my God.

2 My mouth derides my enemies, ♦
because I rejoice in your salvation. [R]

3 There is no Holy One like you, O Lord, ♦
nor any Rock like you, our God.

4 For you are a God of knowledge ♦
and by you our actions are weighed. [R]

5 The bows of the mighty are broken, ♦
but the feeble gird on strength.

6 Those who were full now hire themselves out for bread, ♦
but those who were hungry are well fed. [R]

7 The barren woman has borne sevenfold, ♦
but she who has many children is forlorn.

8 Both the poor and the rich are of your making; ♦
you bring low and you also exalt. [R]

9 You raise up the poor from the dust, ♦
and lift the needy from the ash heap.

10 You make them sit with the rulers ♦
and inherit a place of honour.

11 For the pillars of the earth are yours ♦
and on them you have set the world. [R]

1 Samuel 2.1,2,3b-5,7,8

Refrain:

All My heart exults in the Lord.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Christ has come that we might have life,

All life in all its fullness.]

Lord God of salvation,
you brought joy to Hannah through the gift of a child;

fulfil in us the promise of your creation,

that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit

in love and joy and peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that we may see the fulfilment of our heart’s desire

in this world and the next.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

After torment and tears

you brought life from the womb of Hannah.

Look upon your suffering people with the same compassion
and do not forget us, 
that through the fulfilment of your promise 
the barren may burst into life, 
the mournful may be overwhelmed with joy, 
and the mocked may find a voice to praise you, 
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All  Amen.

Proverbs 8, 9:  

In praise of wisdom

Proverbs 8.1-8,19-21; 9.4b-6

A Song of Wisdom

Refrain:

All  Let us drink of the water of wisdom.

1 O God of our ancestors and Lord of mercy, ♦
you have made all things by your word.

2 By your wisdom you have formed us ♦
to have dominion over the creatures you have made;

3 To rule the world in holiness and righteousness ♦
and to pronounce judgement in uprightness of soul. [R]

4 Give us the Wisdom that sits by your throne; ♦
do not reject us from among your servants,

5 For we are your servants, ♦
with little understanding of judgement and laws. [R]

6 Even one who is perfect among us will be regarded as nothing
without the wisdom that comes from you.

7 With you is Wisdom, she who knows your works, and was present when you made the world.

8 She understands what is pleasing in your sight and what is right according to your commandments. [R]

9 Send her forth from the holy heavens, from the throne of your glory send her.

10 That she may labour at our side and that we may learn what is pleasing to you.

11 For she knows and understands all things, she will guide us wisely in our actions and guard us with her glory. [R]

Wisdom 9.1-5a,c,6,9-11

Refrain:

**All** Let us drink of the water of wisdom.

Silence is kept.

**Prayer**

*With Pattern A*

[Christ is the bread of life.

**All** Whoever comes to him will never hunger.]
O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray for the gift of wisdom for the leaders of our world.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You call us to live by your wisdom,

which is more precious even than gold or silver.

As you beckon us to eat the bread of life

and drink the cup of suffering,

may we gather for ever at your table

and walk always in your way of love,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

¶ Isaiah 54:

I will save you from all your afflictions

Isaiah 54.5-15

Psalm 30

Refrain:

All I will exalt you, O Lord.
1  I will exalt you, O Lord,  

because you have raised me up  

and have not let my foes triumph over me.  

2  O Lord my God, I cried out to you  

and you have healed me.  

3  You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;  

you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.  [R]  

4  Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;  

give thanks to his holy name.  

5  For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,  

his favour for a lifetime.  [R]  

Heavenly may endure for a night,  

but joy comes in the morning.  [R]  

6  In my prosperity I said,  

'I shall never be moved.'  [R]  

You, Lord, of your goodness,  

have made my hill so strong.'  

7  Then you hid your face from me  

and I was utterly dismayed.  [R]  

8  To you, O Lord, I cried;  

to the Lord I made my supplication:  

9  'What profit is there in my blood,  

if I go down to the Pit?'  [R]
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

10  ‘Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; ♦

O Lord, be my helper.’ [R]

11  You have turned my mourning into dancing; ♦

you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

12  Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; ♦

O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever. [R]

Refrain:

**All**  I will exalt you, O Lord.

Silence is kept.

**Prayer**

*With Pattern A*

[Christ is the bridegroom.

**All**  The Church is his bride.]

Almighty and everlasting God,

who in your tender love towards the human race

sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

to take upon him our flesh

and to suffer death upon the cross:

grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,

and also be made partakers of his resurrection;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**All**  Amen.
Let us pray that God will give hope to the grieving, the agonized and the dying.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In your overwhelming compassion you gather the poor and brokenhearted.

As we journey through this storm-tossed life, comfort your people, wipe away our tears and establish us in the security of your love, O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Amen.

¶ Isaiah 55:

Let us return to the Lord who saves us

Isaiah 55.1-11

A Song of Deliverance

Refrain:

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

1 ‘Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid;

2 ‘For the Lord God is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.’
3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

4 On that day you will say, ‘Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;

5 ‘Make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted. [R]

6 ‘Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously; let this be known in all the world.

7 ‘Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.’ [R]

Isaiah 12.2-6

Refrain:

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

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Whoever comes to Christ will never be hungry.

All All who believe in Christ will never thirst.]

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray for peace and justice throughout our world.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You quench the thirst of those who yearn for righteousness
and satisfy the hunger of those who crave for justice.

Lead your longing people back to peace,
that with the mountains and hills
we may burst into songs of joy,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

¶ Isaiah 66:

The Lord is like a mother

Isaiah 66.6-16

Psalm 113

Refrain:

All O praise the name of the Lord.

1 [Alleluia.]

Give praise, you servants of the Lord, O praise the name of the Lord.
2  Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore.

3  From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised. [R]

4  The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens.

5  Who is like the Lord our God, that has his throne so high, yet humbles himself to behold the things of heaven and earth? [R]

6  He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ashes,

7  To set them with princes, with the princes of his people.

8  He gives the barren woman a place in the house and makes her a joyful mother of children. [R]

[Alleluia.]

Refrain:

All  O praise the name of the Lord.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[We share Christ's sufferings
All that we might know the power of his resurrection.

Almighty God,

you have made us for yourself,

and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:

pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,

and so bring us at last to your heavenly city

where we shall see you face to face;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that God will hold and protect all who face abuse and rejection.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us.

When we face the dank darkness of death,

nurse us at your bosom

and enfold us in your arms of love

until we can sing the songs of justice and peace,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

Jeremiah 31:

God promises a new heart
All  Make me a clean heart, O God.

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. [R]

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. [R]

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;

14  Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to you. [R]

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. [R]
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. [R]

Refrain:

All Make me a clean heart, O God.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[God will write his law on our hearts.

All He will be our God and we will be his people.]

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.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that God will rekindle in us a renewed love for him.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Even when your people broke your covenant,

your heart cried out for them
and you remained steadfast as a faithful husband.

Renew in us our love for you

and write your law on our hearts,

that we may truly be your people, and you our God,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

¶ Ezekiel 36:

Sprinkled with the water of life

Ezekiel 36.24-28

Psalm 42.1-7

Refrain:

All My soul longs for you, O God.

1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, ♦

so longs my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; ♦

when shall I come before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my bread day and night, ♦

while all day long they say to me, Where is now your God? [R]

4 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,

5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, ♦
among those who kept holy day. [R]

6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me?

7 O put your trust in God; for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance, and my God. [R]

Refrain:

All My soul longs for you, O God.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Christ gives the living water.

All Christ is the fountain of eternal life.]

Heavenly Father,

by the power of your Holy Spirit

you give to your faithful people new life

in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,

that we who are born again

may serve you in faith and love,

and grow into the full stature of your Son,

Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

_All_ Amen.

_With Pattern B_

Let us pray that God will give to the thirsting

a new outpouring of his refreshing spirit.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

When we are overwhelmed by the wasting world,

gather us again and renew us.

Create in us a new heart and a renewed spirit,

that we may be a people prepared

to live in your land and walk in your ways,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

_All_ Amen.

¶  _Ezekiel 37:_

_The valley of dry bones_

_Ezekiel 37.1-14_

_Psalm 126_

_Refrain:_

_All_ The Lord has done great things for us.

1  When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, ▷

then were we like those who dream.

2  Then was our mouth filled with laughter ▷
and our tongue with songs of joy. [R]

3 Then said they among the nations, [R]

‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, [R]

and therefore we rejoiced. [R]

5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, [R]

as the river beds of the desert.

6 Those who sow in tears [R]

shall reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, [R]

will come back with shouts of joy,

bearing their sheaves with them. [R]

Refrain:

All The Lord has done great things for us.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Christ is the resurrection and the life.

All Those who believe in Christ will never die.]

Lord God of our salvation,

you speak the word to your scattered people,

and bring up our life from the valley of death:

breathe your Spirit upon your Church,
that we may live and stand before you
confident in your risen Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that God will breathe new life into his weary creation.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You bring life from the darkest valley of death.

When hope is lost

and our dry bones are scattered in shame,

speak your word to your broken people,

that we may stand confidently before you,

and breathe your Spirit into us that we might live,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

¶ Ezekiel 47:

The river of life

Ezekiel 47.1-12

Psalm 46.1-5

Refrain:

All God is our refuge and strength.

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble;

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, 

and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

3 Though the waters rage and swell, 

and though the mountains quake at the towering seas. [R]

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, 

the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her;

therefore shall she not be removed; 

God shall help her at the break of day. [R]

Refrain:

All God is our refuge and strength.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[If we drink of the water that Christ gives

All we will never thirst again.]

God, the giver of life,

whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:

by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and

make us eager to do your will,

that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
[who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever].

Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that God's justice will flow like rivers in the deserts of this world.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

The river of life flows from your heart and where that stream goes everything bursts into flower.

May your refreshing water be a torrent of life in the deserts of this world,
bringing food to eat and healing to the nations,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Amen.

Daniel 3:
The three young men in the furnace

Daniel 3.1-28

Bless the Lord and Benedicite (A Song of Creation)

1   Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

2   Blessed is your holy and glorious name, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
3 Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

4 Blessed are you who look into the depths, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

5 Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

6 Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

7 Blessed are you in the heights of heaven, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

The Song of the Three 29-34

1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

2 Bless the Lord you heavens: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: bless the Lord all you his hosts;

bless the Lord you waters above the heavens: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

4 Bless the Lord sun and moon: bless the Lord you stars of heaven;

bless the Lord all rain and dew: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

5 Bless the Lord all winds that blow: bless the Lord you fire and heat;
bless the Lord scorching wind and bitter cold:  

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

6  Bless the Lord dews and falling snows:  

bless the Lord you nights and days;  

bless the Lord light and darkness:  

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

7  Bless the Lord frost and cold:  

bless the Lord you ice and snow;  

bless the Lord lightnings and clouds:  

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

8  O let the earth bless the Lord:  

bless the Lord you mountains and hills;  

bless the Lord all that grows in the ground:  

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

9  Bless the Lord you springs:  

bless the Lord you seas and rivers;  

bless the Lord you whales and all that swim in the waters:  

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

10 Bless the Lord all birds of the air:  

bless the Lord you beasts and cattle;  

bless the Lord all people on earth:  

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

11 O people of God bless the Lord:  

bless the Lord you priests of the Lord;
bless the Lord you servants of the Lord:

**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

12 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit:

bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

The Song of the Three 35-65

**All** Sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Silence is kept.

**Prayer**

*With Pattern A*

[When you walk through the waters Christ is with you.

**All** We will never be consumed by the flames.]

O God,

you know us to be set

in the midst of so many and great dangers,

that by reason of the frailty of our nature

we cannot always stand upright:

grant to us such strength and protection

as may support us in all dangers

and carry us through all temptations;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**All** Amen.

*With Pattern B*

Let us pray for courage to remain faithful to Christ even through
the fires of this life.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You rewarded the faithfulness of the three young men

with your protection against the blazing fire.

When the burning flames of life threaten to consume us,

be faithful to us and transform our fear into your praise,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

Daniel 6:

Daniel in the lions' den

Daniel 6.1-24

Psalm 34

Refrain:

All I will bless the Lord at all times.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

3 O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. [R]

4 I sought the Lord and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
5 Look upon him and be radiant  
and your faces shall not be ashamed.  

6 This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me  
and saved me from all my troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him  
and delivers them.  

8 O taste and see that the Lord is gracious;  
blessed is the one who trusts in him.

9 Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones,  
for those who fear him lack nothing.

10 Lions may lack and suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the Lord  
lack nothing that is good.  

11 Come, my children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who is there who delights in life  
and longs for days to enjoy good things?  

13 Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from lying words.

14 Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.  

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous  
and his ears are open to their cry.
16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth. [R]

17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them out of all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and will save those who are crushed in spirit. [R]

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous; from them all will the Lord deliver them.

20 He keeps all their bones, so that not one of them is broken. [R]

21 But evil shall slay the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants and will condemn none who seek refuge in him. [R]

Refrain:

All I will bless the Lord at all times.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[The angels closed the lions’ mouths.

All Christ has saved us from the jaws of death.]

All Almighty Father,

whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that God will sustain us when evil threatens
to overcome us.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Your servant Daniel was devoted to you,
even in the face of the death threats of his enemies.

As your angels kept shut the jaws of death,
protect your people as they try to be faithful today
and stir in us a trust in your unfailing love,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

Jonah 1:

Jonah and the fish

Jonah 1.1 – 2.10
Psalm 130

Refrain:

All With the Lord there is mercy.

1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,

O Lord, who could stand?

3 But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you shall be feared. [R]

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;

in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,

more than the night watch for the morning, [R]

more than the night watch for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,

for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him is plenteous redemption

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. [R]

Refrain:

All With the Lord there is mercy.

Silence is kept.
Prayer

*With Pattern A*

[Christ has saved us from the pit of death.

*All* He brought new life to the world.]

Lord of all time and eternity,

you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father

in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:

by the power of your Spirit

complete the heavenly work of our rebirth

through the waters of the new creation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

*With Pattern B*

Let us pray that we may share God's heart of compassion for the lost.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In the face of wickedness and disobedience

you still looked lovingly

on the people of Nineveh and your prophet Jonah.

As we see your mighty salvation,

turn the hearts of the wicked to the ways of your love,

that the whole world might return to you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All* Amen.
Refrain:

All Sing to the Lord a new song.

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

2 His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory. [R]

3 The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. [R]

5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.

6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King. [R]

8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. [R]

Refrain:

All Sing to the Lord a new song.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Where, O death, is your victory?

All Where, O death, is your sting?]

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

help us to proclaim the good news of your love,

that all who hear it may be drawn to you;

through him who was lifted up on the cross,

and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

With Pattern B
Let us pray that God will fill sad hearts with songs of joy.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You are the King who dwells in the midst of the people

as one who brings victory from the jaws of defeat.

Heal the sick and gather the outcast

and turn our shame into praise,

that we may sing aloud and exalt your name,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All   Amen.

¶  Baruch 3, 4:

The commandments of life

Baruch 3.9-15,32 – 4.4

Psalm 19.7-end

Refrain:

All   You are my strength and my redeemer.

7   The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; [R]

the testimony of the Lord is sure

and gives wisdom to the simple.

8   The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; [R]

the commandment of the Lord is pure

and gives light to the eyes. [R]

9   The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; [R]
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, ♦
sweeter also than honey,
dripping from the honeycomb.

11 By them also is your servant taught ♦
and in keeping them there is great reward. [R]

12 Who can tell how often they offend? ♦
O cleanse me from my secret faults!

13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins
lest they get dominion over me; ♦
so shall I be undefiled,
and innocent of great offence.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, ♦
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. [R]

Refrain:

All  You are my strength and my redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Prayer

With Pattern A

[Christ is the wisdom of God.]
All Christ has the words of eternal life.

Eternal God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,

to rejoice in his truth,

and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

With Pattern B

Let us pray that God will reveal his ways of wisdom to the proud

and powerful.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You share your wisdom with the forsaken

and open to us the way of life.

Give us wisdom, strength and understanding,

that we may shine with the light of your glory

and glow with gladness for you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Amen.

The Exsultet

Form 1: a traditional version with optional responses
1 If possible, the main text should be sung by a deacon.

For music, see here.

2 Other responses may be used instead of ‘Glory to you for ever’, such as

_All_ Glory to you, O Lord.

(or)

_All_ The Lord reigns.

3 In recent years some have shown an interest in reviving the references to bees in the Exsultet. They played a prominent role in the text of the so-called ‘Franco-Roman’ Exsultet. For those who wish to restore these references, additional lines are offered for optional insertion into the main text of the Exsultet.

_Either_ The minister sings the Introduction

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

O Universe, dance around God’s throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,

radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!

Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!

Let all God’s people sing and shout for joy.

_Or_ Alternatively, the Introduction could be sung by the whole congregation to a tune of the metre 10.10.10.10 using the following form (see here).

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

Around God’s throne exult in harmony!
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Salute your King in glorious symphony!
Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past, the day of life is here!
Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!
Your Saviour lives; he’s with you evermore!
Let all God’s people sound the long Amen!

The minister continues

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has saved us by his death,
paid the price of Adam’s sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.

All [Glory to you for ever.]

For this is the Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain,

whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

\textit{All [Glory to you for ever.]}

This is the night [\textit{day}] when you first saved our ancestors,

freeing Israel from her slavery

and leading her safely through the sea.

\textit{All [Glory to you for ever.]}

This is the night [\textit{day}] when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,

broke the chains of death

and rose triumphant from the grave.

\textit{All [Glory to you for ever.]}

This is the night [\textit{day}] when all who believe in him are freed from sin,

restored to grace and holiness,

and share the victory of Christ.

\textit{All [Glory to you for ever.]}

This is the night [\textit{day}] that gave us back what we had lost;

beyond our deepest dreams

you made even our sin a happy fault.

\textit{All [Glory to you for ever.]}

Most blessed of all nights [Crowning glory of all feasts!]

Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,

lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

\textit{All [Glory to you for ever.]}
Night [Feast] truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth
and all creation reconciled to you.

_all_ [Glory to you for ever.]

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church’s solemn offering,‡

[this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.

_all_ [Glory to you for ever.]

As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame
fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee,]

grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;

Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!

Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!

Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

_all_ Amen.

† [said/sung during the day]

‡ The text in square brackets may be omitted (see here).

¶ Form 2: a short responsive Exsultet

Notes

1  If possible, the main text should be sung by a deacon.

2  Other locally composed verses may also be added, provided that the thematic structure of the Exsultet is not obscured.
Choirs of angels, stars and planets:

*All* all God’s people sing and dance.

All creation, Church of God:

*All* all God’s people sing and dance.

We praise you Lord of life and death:

we glorify your name:

*All* all God’s people sing and dance.

This is the night you set us free,

bringing us home in love;

holy night, when you led your people

through the fearsome sea:

*All* all God’s people sing and dance.

This is the night you brought your Son

through the doors of death;

O holy night, when death takes flight

and hope is born again:

*All* all God’s people sing and dance.

This is the night our tears of sadness

turn to shouts of joy;

holy night, when the choirs of earth

sing the songs of heaven:

*All* all God’s people sing and dance.

This is the night when Christ our Light
makes the darkness bright:

All God’s people sing and dance.

Christ is the life that knows no end.

Christ is the love that burns within.

Christ is the peace that floods the world.

Christ is the Lord who reigns on high.

All God’s people sing and dance.

Amen.

Form 3: a metrical version

Notes

1 This version fits some tunes with a 10.10.10.10 metre. The following are suitable:

- Blackbird Leys (Common Praise 293, Hymns Ancient & Modern New Standard 349)
- Cliff Town (Common Praise 479, Hymns Ancient & Modern New Standard 488)
- Dunoon (Hymns of Glory / Church Hymnary 4th edition 215)
- Scampston (Common Praise 156)
- Wanless (Sing Praise 144)
- Woodlands (widely available – Common Praise 500, New English Hymnal 486, Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New 395, Complete Mission Praise 631)
- Yanworth (Complete Mission Praise 178, Hymns for Today’s Church 459, Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New 238, Sing Glory 629)

2 The verses may be sung by the congregation or alternately by deacon and congregation, or any other suitable variation. The last verse should always be sung by everyone.

3 If this form of Exsultet is used during the day, 'This is the night' may be replaced by 'This is the day' and 'O night' by 'O day'.

Exult and sing! O shining angel choirs!
Exult and dance, bright stars and blazing suns!

The first born of creation, Jesus Christ,

is ris'n in radiant splendour from the dead.

Rejoice, O awesome night of our rebirth!

Rejoice, O mother moon, that marks the months!

For from your fullness comes, at last, the day

when sin and death are robbed of all their power.

Arise then, sleepers, Christ enlightens you!

Arise from doubt and sadness, sin and death!

With joyful hearts and spirits set aflame,

draw near to sing this Easter Candle's praise!

We lift our hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

We praise you, God, for all your works of light!

We bless you for that burst of fire and flame

through which you first created all that is.

We bless you for the light invisible:

the fire of faith, the Spirit's grace and truth,

that light, the source of life, that stirs the heart,

and shines for ever on the face of Christ.

This is the night, most blessed of all nights.

You led your people through the foaming sea,

in love you led them with a cloud by day

and as a flaming shaft of fire by night.
O night that gave us back what we had lost!

O night that made our sin a happy fault!

Beyond our deepest dreams this night, O God

your hand reached out to raise us up in Christ!

Now is Christ risen, we are raised with him,

our Morning Star who dawns and never sets.

May Jesus Christ our Saviour find us all

united in one faith, one hope, one Lord.

Creator, in the joy of Easter night [tide]

accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.

May all who see this candle's radiant light

be led to know your nature and your name.

All For you alone are God, living and true:

all glory, praise and pow’r belong to you

with Jesus Christ, the One who conquered death

and with the Spirit blest for evermore.

Amen.

Form 4: a modern variant

Note

If possible, the Exsultet should be sung by a deacon.

Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult all life forms throughout creation!
Jesus Christ from death is risen!

Sound the trumpet of salvation!

It is truly right
	hat with full hearts, clear minds, and strong voices

we should praise the unseen God

from whom we all draw life,

and Jesus our anointed one,

the human face of God's own goodness.

In Christ the gap

between us and God's own deep mystery

has been bridged.

The ancient fears,

the tribal taboos,

our sense of shame

have been swept away in the light of Christ.

Our first mothers and fathers

sang of God's salvation

around fires in the desert.

Their sons and daughters, we sing the same song.

This is the night when Christians everywhere

celebrate redemption,

claim forgiveness,

take hold of new life.
This is the night when God says ‘No’ to death,
that final boundary to human life,
that door we once feared to approach.

This is the night God swallows death,
absorbs its sting into God's own life,
strips death of all power,
renews our fainting hearts.

Night truly blessed,
when heaven and earth are divided no more,
women and men are reconciled with God,
death gives way to life.

And so, our God, in the joy of this night,
receive our offering of praise.

Accept this Easter Candle,
a flame divided but undimmed.

May it mingle with the lights of heaven
and continue bravely burning
to dispel the darkness of night.

May Christ, the Morning Star that never sets,
draw us all closer to God,
and may the peace and justice of God
be our shared human experience.

Accept our praise and our prayers,
that we offer through Jesus, the risen one,

who shares the life of God

with Father and Spirit for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Music for the Easter Liturgy

Contents

The Exsultet

Prayer over the Water

Introduction

Singing the Exsultet and the Prayer over the Water is a distinctive feature of the Easter Liturgy. The Exsultet has its own tone, whereas the Prayer over the Water is sung to the tones used for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Here the chants are presented at modal pitch, with C as the notional reciting note. However, the G clef devised for the Common Worship plainchant settings is a reminder that this pitch is relative rather than absolute. In most cases, the president will wish to sing these chants at a lower pitch, most likely beginning the dialogue on D, E flat, E or F (with a principal reciting note of G, A flat, A or B flat) according to the range of the voice.

The chant should be sung flowingly at a steady speaking pace, bearing in mind the shape and stress of the text; hollow notes are provided where the reciting pitch is unchanged, and doubled black notes indicate suggested lengthening or weighted sound. Often this will be roughly equivalent to doubling the length of the note. At the end of a phrase such as ‘Lift up your hearts’, which has two notes set to ‘hearts’, both notes are slightly lengthened, with the second sung more gently than the first.

Exsultet

Either The minister sings the Introduction
Re-joice, hea-ven-ly pow-ers! Sing, choirs of an-gels!
O U-ni-verse, dance a-round God's throne!
Je-sus Christ our King is ri-sen!
Sound the vic-to-rious trim-plet of sal-va-tion!
Re-joice, O earth, in glo-ry, revealing the splen-dour of your cre-a-tion,
ra-diant in the bright-ness of your tri-um-phant King!
Christ has con-quered! Now his life and glo-ry fill you!
Dark-ness va-ni-shes for ev-er!
Re-joice, O Mo-ther Church! Exult in glo-ry!
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines u pon you!
Let all God's peo-ple sing and shout for joy.

Or Alternatively, the Introduction could be sung by the whole congregation to a tune of the metre 10.10.10.10 using the following form (see here):

All Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Around God's throne exult in harmony!
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Salute your King in glorious symphony!
Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiant!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past, the day of life is here!
Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!
Your Saviour lives; he's with you evermore!
Let all God's people sound the long Amen!
The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices

We should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God.

through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

who has saved us by his death, paid the price of Adam's sin;

and reconciled us once again to you.

Glorify to you for ever.

For this is the Pass-over feast,

when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain,

whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

Glorify to you for ever.

This is the night [day] when you first saved our ancestors.

† [said/sung during the day]
Most bless-ed of all nights! [Crown-ing glo-ry of all feasts!†]

E-vil and ha-tred are put to flight and sin is washed a-way,
lost innocence re-gained, and mourn-ing turned to joy.

Night [Feast†] tru-ly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
Night [Feast†] tru-ly blessed, when hatred is cast out,

† [said/sung during the day]

peace and jus-tice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth
and all cre-a-tion re-con-ciled to you.

Glo-ry to you for ev-er.
Prayer over the Water

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.
Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan,

we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.

*Saving God,*
give us life.

† The bracketed refrain *Saving God, give us life* is optional. If it is used, it may be said or sung by all.

The first phrase *Saving God* (italicized) may be said or sung by a deacon or other minister.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.

*Saving God,*
give us life.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.

*Saving God,*
give us life.
Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ in his death and in his re-sus-rec-tion,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Sa-ving God,
give us life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the house-hold of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and e-ter-nal life;
for all might, majesty, au-thor-i-ty and power are yours.

now and for ev-er. A - men.

Related Resources

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