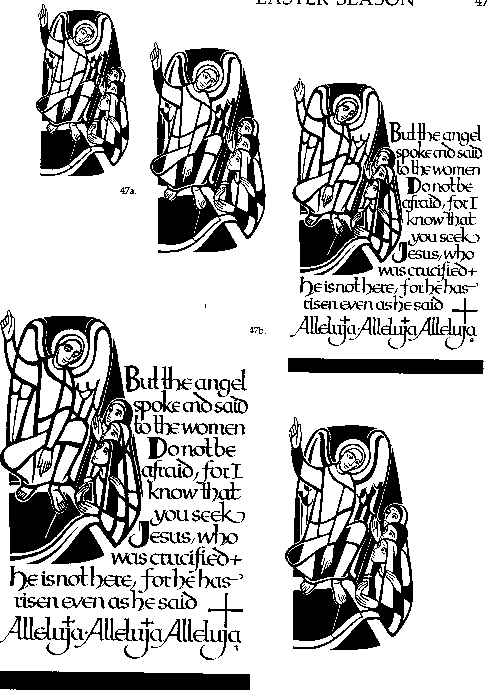
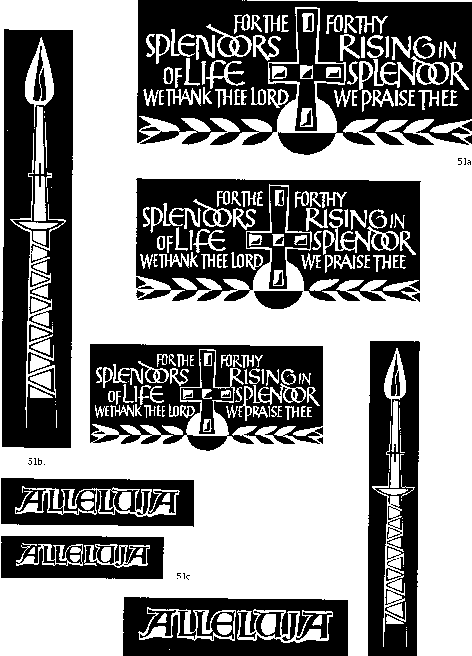
The Parish of St Andrew

Orford with Longford



Easter Vigil

2015 +



The Paschal Vigil

From the earliest times, Easter was associated with the Jewish Passover and was celebrated each year during the Passover season. This is how the word ***‘pasch’*** (from the Hebrew ‘*pesach’*), meaning Passover, came to be used for Easter. Tonight’s liturgy is the only relic that has come down to us from the widespread custom of all-night services of vigil, and represents a combination of ancient traditions, all of which are grounded in devotion to the Paschal mystery - Christ’s conquering of death.

The Vigil Service is the transition - the passing over from Passion to Resurrection, from darkness to life, from darkness to light.

The Paschal Candle (Easter Candle) symbolises the risen Lord, who is the pillar of fire, guiding his people out of their bondage to sin, through the wilderness of a fallen world, into the promised land of his Kingdom. A cross is symbolically cut in the candle, together with the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and the numbers of the current year, to remind us that all our time, from beginning to end, belongs to God, and that this and every year is, for us, a year of the Lord.

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Order of Service

*As the Priest enters with the servers, please turn to face the West end.*

Priest: + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: and also with you

Priest: Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy 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 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; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

The new fire is lit.

Priest: 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. **Amen**.

Blessing the Easter Candle

Priest: Christ - yesterday and today

the beginning and the end

Alpha and Omega

all time belongs to him,

and all ages;

to him be glory and power,

through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

The priest inserts five pins as symbols of the crucifixion, saying:

By his holy and glorious wounds

may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. **Amen**

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

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Deacon: The light of Christ

All: Thanks be to God

The candles of the choir and servers are lit, and the procession enters Church. Part way, the procession stops:

Deacon: The light of Christ

All: Thanks be to God

The congregation light their candles from the choir and servers, and the procession moves into the chancel. As the Paschal candle is placed in the candle stand:

Deacon: The light of Christ

All: Thanks be to God

Please remain standing for the Paschal proclamation, in which, with great triumph and joy, the Church proclaims the meaning of the Paschal victory.

The Paschal Proclamation

**All** (sing): 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 ever more!

Let all God’s people shout the long Amen!

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Lift up your hearts

All; We lift them to the Lord

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise

Priest: 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.

For this is the Passover feast, when Christ,, the true Lamb of God, is slain whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy, accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church’s solemn offering. 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! **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

Priest: 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.

Please sit

**A reading from the book of Genesis**  *(Gen. 1.1 – 2.4a)*

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. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

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

And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Priest: 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 image:

teach us to discern you hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. .

**Amen.**

**Hymn:**  *(remain seated)*  ‘God who madest earth and heaven’

God who madest earth and heaven

darkness and light;

who the day for toil hast given,

for rest the night;

may thine angel-guards defend us,

slumber sweet thy mercy send us,

holy dreams and hopes attend us,

this livelong night.

Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,

and, when we die,

may we in thy mighty keeping

all peaceful lie:

when the last dread call shall wake us,

do not thou our God forsake us,

but to reign in glory take us

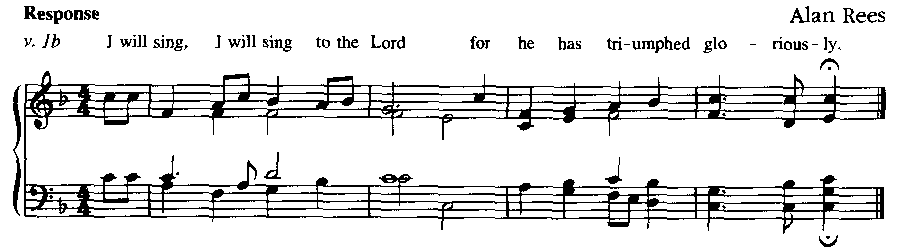
with thee on high.

**A reading from the book of Exodus** *(Ex. 14. 10–31; 15 .20–21)*

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’ Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.’ Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**CANTICLE**

***REFRAIN*  I will sing, I will sing to the Lord,**

**for he has triumphed gloriously.**

1 ‘I will sing to the LORD, for he has | triumphed gloriously;

horse and rider he has thrown in | to the sea.

The LORD is my strength | and my might,

and he has become | my salvation; ***Refrain***

2 this is my God, and | I will praise him,

my father’s God, and I | will exalt him.

The LORD | is a warrior;

the LORD | is his name. ***Refrain***

3 Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast | into the sea;

his picked officers were sunk | in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them; they went down into the depths | like a stone.

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power –

your right hand, O LORD | shattered the enemy. ***Refrain***

4 In the greatness of your majesty you over | threw your adversaries;

you sent out your fury, it consumed | them like stubble.

At the blast of your nostrils the wa | ters piled up,

the floods stood up in a heap;

the deeps congealed in the heart | of the sea. ***Refrain***

5 The enemy said, “I will pursue, I will |overtake,

I will divide the spoil,

my desire shall | have its fill of them.

I will | draw my sword,

my hand | shall destroy them.” ***Refrain***

6 You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;

they sank like lead in the | mighty waters.

Who is like you, O LORD, a | mong the gods?

Who is like you, majes | tic in holiness,

awesome in splendour, | doing wonders? ***Refrain***

7 You stretched | out your right hand,

the earth | swallowed them.

In your steadfast love you led the people whom | you redeemed;

you guided them by your strength to your ho | ly abode. ***Refrain***

8 You brought them in and planted them

on the mountain of your | own possession,

the place, O LORD, that you made| your abode,

the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands | have established.

The LORD will reign for ev | er and ever.’ ***Refrain***

9 Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister,

took a tambourine | in her hand;

and all the women went out after her with tambourines | and with dancing.

And Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the Lord

for he has | triumphed gloriously;

horse and rider he has thrown in | to the sea. ***Refrain***

Priest: 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 your Promised land;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Hymn** *(remain seated)*:

The Lamb’s high banquet we await

In snow-white robes of royal state;

And now, the Red Sea’s channel past,

To Christ, our Prince, we sing at last.

Upon the altar of the cross

His body hath redeemed our loss;

And tasting of his roseate blood

Our life is hid with him in God.

That Paschal eve God’s arm was bared;

The devastating angel spared:

By strength of hand our hosts went free

From Pharaoh’s ruthless tyranny

Now Christ our Paschal Lamb is slain,

The Lamb of God that knows no stain;

The true oblation offered here,

Our own unleavened Bread sincere.

For Christ, arising from the dead,

From conquered hell victorious sped;

He thrusts the tyrant down in chains,

And paradise for man regains.

Maker of all, to thee we pray,

Fulfil in us thy joy today:

When death assails, grant Lord, that we

May share the Paschal victory.

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel** *(Ezek. 36. 24–28)*

The word of the LORD came to me: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Priest: 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 that 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 and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Hymn***(remain seated)*: ‘Breathe on me, breath of God’

Breathe on me, Breath of God.

fill me with life anew,

that I may love what thou dost love,

and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,

until my heart is pure;

until with thee I will one will,

to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,

till I am wholly thine;

until this earthly part of me

glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God:

so shall I never die,

but live with thee the perfect life

of thine eternity.

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel** *(Ezek. 47. 1-12)*

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Priest: 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. **Amen**

**Hymn***(remain seated)*: ‘As the deer pants for the water’

As the deer pants for the water,

So my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,*

*To you alone may my spirit yield.*

*You alone are my heart's desire*

*And I long to worship you.*

I want you more than gold or silver,

Only you can satisfy.

You alone are the real joy-giver

And the apple of my eye. *You alone ...*

You're my Friend and you are my Brother,

Even though you are a King.

I love you more than any other,

So much more than anything. *You alone ...*

Please stand:

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen

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

A fanfare is played, leading into:

All (sing): 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.

Priest: 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. Amen

Please sit:

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans** *(Rom. 6. 3–11)*

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**Hymn**: ‘Now is eternal life’ *(please stand)*

Now is eternal life,

if ris’n with Christ we stand,

in him to life reborn,

and held within his hand;

no more we fear death’s ancient dread,

in Christ arisen from the dead.

Man long in bondage lay,

brooding o’er life’s brief span;

was it O God, for naught,

for naught thou madest man?

Thou art our hope, our vital breath;

shall hope undying end in death?

And God, the living God,

stooped down to man’s estate;

by death destroying death,

Christ opened wide life’s gate.

He lives, who died; he reigns on high;

who lives in him shall never die.

Unfathomed love divine,

reign thou within my heart;

from thee nor depth nor height,

nor life nor death can part;

my life is hid in God with thee,

now and through all eternity.

**THE GOSPEL**

Priest: 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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**In YEAR A:**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*(Matt. 28:1–10)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**In YEAR B:**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark*(Mk. 16.1–8)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**In YEAR C:**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke*(Lk 24. 1–12)*

All: Glory to you O Lord

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had accompanied Jesus came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered Jesus’ words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The procession moves to the Font, during which the following litany is said. Please join the procession and bring this order of service with you

Priest: Lord have mercy

All: Lord have mercy

Priest: Christ have mercy

All: Christ have mercy

Priest: Lord have mercy

All: Lord have mercy

Priest: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious:

All: And his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: Who has loved us from all eternity:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: And remembered us when we were in trouble:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was made man:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: Who by his cross and passion has redeemed the world:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: And has washed us from our sins in his own blood:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: 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, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask these questions:

Priest: Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Priest Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

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

I repent of them.

Priest Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Priest Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

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

I come to Christ.

**Prayer over the Water**

Priest: Praise God who made heaven and earth

All: who keeps his promise for ever.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: 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

All: Saving God, give us life.

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

All: Saving God, give us life.

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

All: Saving God, give us life.

Priest: 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.

All: Saving God, give us life.

Priest: 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. **Amen. Saving God, give us life.**

Priest Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess 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.

Priest 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.

Priest 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.

The Declaration

Priest: I call upon those who are affirming their baptismal faith to renew their commitment to Jesus Christ.

All: I answer the call of God my Creator. I trust in Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I seek new life from the Holy Spirit.

Water is sprinkled

Priest: God of mercy and love, in baptism you welcome the sinner and restore the dead to life. You create a clean heart in those who repent, and give your Holy Spirit to those who ask. Grant that these your servants may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Equip them with the gifts of your Holy Spirit, and fill them with faith in Jesus Christ and with love for all your people, in the service of your kingdom.

**Amen**

Thanksgiving for the Resurrection

As the priest and servers return to the sanctuary and the people to their pews, the Litany continues:

Priest: Who on the third day rose again.

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: And has given us the victory:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: Who ascended into heaven:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: And opened wide for us the everlasting doors:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: Who is seated at the right hand of the Father:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: And ever lives to make intercession for us:

All: For his mercy endures for ever.

Priest: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

All: And to the Holy Spirit.

Priest: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

All: World without end. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptised 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. **Amen.**

Priest: God our Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead: strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, + the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Hymn**: Jesus lives! thy terrors now

can, O death, no more appal us;

Jesus lives! by this we know

thou, O grave, canst not enthral us.

*Alleluia.*

Jesus lives! henceforth is death

but the gate of life immortal:

this shall calm our trembling breath,

when we pass its gloomy portal.

*Alleluia.*

Jesus lives! for us he died;

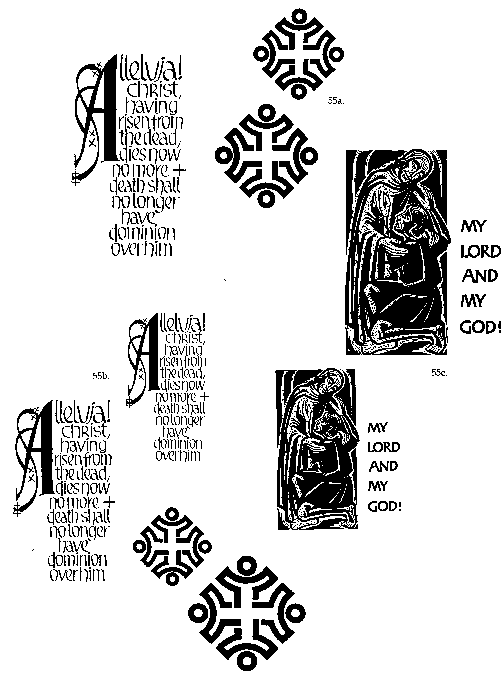
then, alone to Jesus living,

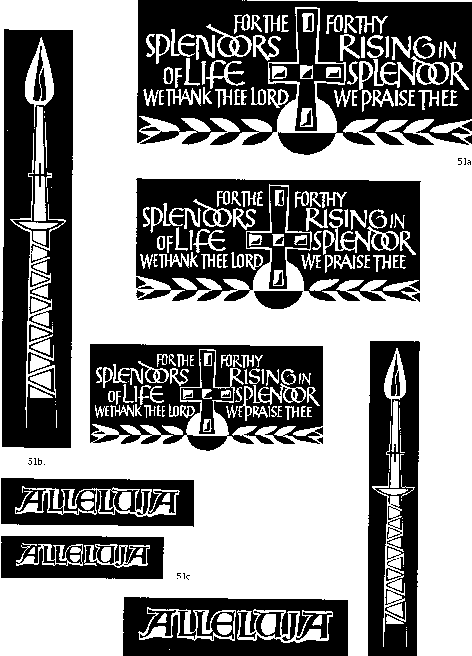
pure in heart may we abide,

glory to our Saviour giving.

*Alleluia.*

Jesus lives! our hearts know well

naught from us his love shall sever;

life nor death nor powers of hell

tear us from his keeping ever.

*Alleluia.*

Jesus lives! to him the throne

over all the world is given:

may we go where he is gone,

rest and reign with him in heaven.

*Alleluia.*

Priest: Go in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Reading 1:*

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

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. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

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

And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Reading 2:*

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’ Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.’ Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.’

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Reading 3:*

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel**

The word of the LORD came to me: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Reading 4:*

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel**

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Reading 5:*

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Gospel:*

Priest: 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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**In YEAR A:**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**.

Priest: 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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**In YEAR B:**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark*(Mk. 16.1–8)*

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**.

Priest: 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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**In YEAR C:**

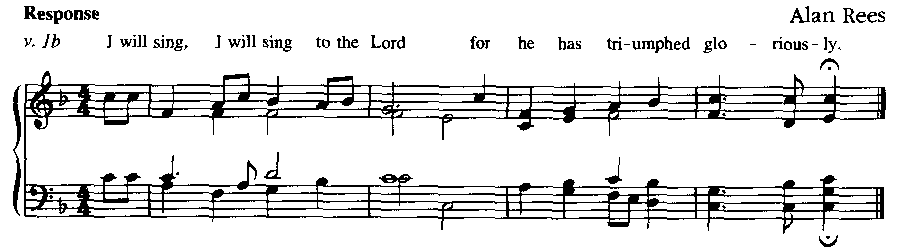
Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke*(Lk 24. 1–12)*

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had accompanied Jesus came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered Jesus’ words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**.

**CANTICLE**

***REFRAIN*  I will sing, I will sing to the Lord,**

**for he has triumphed gloriously.**

1 ‘I will sing to the LORD, for he has | triumphed gloriously;

horse and rider he has thrown in | to the sea.

The LORD is my strength | and my might,

and he has become | my salvation; ***Refrain***

2 this is my God, and | I will praise him,

my father’s God, and I | will exalt him.

The LORD | is a warrior;

the LORD | is his name. ***Refrain***

3 Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast | into the sea;

his picked officers were sunk | in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them; they went down into the depths | like a stone.

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power –

your right hand, O LORD, | shattered the enemy. ***Refrain***

4 In the greatness of your majesty you over | threw your adversaries;

you sent out your fury, it consumed | them like stubble.

At the blast of your nostrils the wa | ters piled up,

the floods stood up in a heap;

the deeps congealed in the heart | of the sea. ***Refrain***

5 The enemy said, “I will pursue, I will | overtake,

I will divide the spoil,

my desire shall | have its fill of them.

I will | draw my sword,

my hand | shall destroy them.” ***Refrain***

6 You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;

they sank like lead in the | mighty waters.

Who is like you, O LORD, a | mong the gods?

Who is like you, majes | tic in holiness,

awesome in splendour, | doing wonders? ***Refrain***

7 You stretched | out your right hand,

the earth | swallowed them.

In your steadfast love you led the people whom | you redeemed;

you guided them by your strength to your ho | ly abode. ***Refrain***

8 You brought them in and planted them

on the mountain of your | own possession,

the place, O LORD, that you made | your abode,

the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands | have established.

The LORD will reign for ev | er and ever.’ ***Refrain***

9 Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister,

took a tambourine | in her hand;

and all the women went out after her

with tambourines | and with dancing.

And Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the Lord

for he has | triumphed gloriously;

horse and rider he has thrown in | to the sea. ***Refrain***