

The Easter Vigil, Service of
Light, and First Eucharist of
Easter
Sunday 4th April 2021
at 6.00am



Truro
Cathedral

President and Preacher:
Canon Alan Bashforth

Please gather on High Cross informally – you are welcome to remain standing - but seats are available by the cathedral doors if you would prefer to sit.

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

The minister says this prayer

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.

Readings and Prayers

First Reading

Genesis 1:1 – 2: 4a

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept

The Collect

The president says

Let us pray.

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 our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Second Reading

Exodus 14: 15 – 15: 1a

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept

The Collect

The president says

Let us pray.

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Third Reading

Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept

The Collect

The president says

Let us pray.

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.**

Blessing of the fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle

The clergy move from the cathedral steps to the fire

The fire is then blessed

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: make this fire holy, set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us into the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Resurrection of Christ has always been celebrated with light, so the Paschal Candle is adorned with the Greek letters Alpha and Omega signifying that Christ is the beginning and the end, the sign of the cross is made symbolising the victory of Jesus over death and the year claimed for Christ as the president says

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

Five grains of incense are inserted into the candle representing the five wounds of the crucifixion

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

The paschal Candle is then lit from the new fire as the president says

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The Exultet is then said

Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels! Exult all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ our King is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever! Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

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

The Lord be with you
and 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 truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father! This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers. This is the night when you first saved our fathers: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin! This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness. This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the

chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. What good would life have been to us, had not Christ come as our Redeemer? Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son. O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer! Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead! Of this night scripture says: 'The night will be clear as day: it will become my light, my joy.' The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and we are reconciled to God! Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night! May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen**

The president says

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Hymn

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!**

**But the pain which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!**

When our attempt to sing the hymn unaccompanied is over – perhaps to the relief of all – those who wish to stay for the First Eucharist of Easter are invited to enter the cathedral – sanitising on entry – to then find a seat in the Nave. Please turn to face West.

The president carrying the Paschal Candle then enters the cathedral pausing three times as the following is proclaimed,

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand and the service continues.

All remain standing

The Collect

The president says or sings

Let us pray

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.

Please sit

New Testament Reading

Romans 6: 3 – 11

A reading from the letter of St 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.**

Please stand

Gospel Reading

John 20: 1-18

The president says,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The preacher says an opening invocation or prayer, and then all sit.

Sermon

At the end of the sermon all remain seated, standing when the president stands.

The Liturgy of Initiation

Prayer over the Water

The president addresses the people in these words

My brothers and sisters, let us ask the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, which we shall use to recall our baptism. May he renew us and keep us faithful to the Spirit we have all received.

The president says

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.**

Lord our God your people keep prayerful vigil. Be with us as we recall the wonder of our creation and the greater wonder of our redemption. Bless this water: it makes the seed to grow, it refreshes us and makes us clean. You have made of it a servant of your loving kindness: through water you set your people free, and quenched their thirst in the desert. With water the prophets announced a new covenant that you made with all people. By water, made holy by Christ in the Jordan, you made our sinful nature new in the baptism that gives rebirth. Let this water remind us of our baptism; let us also share the joys of our brothers and sisters who are baptised this Easter; we make our prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Standing at the Font, the president says

Dear friends, 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. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, let us renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil. 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.**

Brothers and sisters, I invite 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.**

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.**

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. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

Please sit while the altar is prepared

When the altar has been prepared the president may say the following prayer

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.**

Please stand

Eucharistic Prayer A

The president says

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
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:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full
of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please remain standing as the president continues

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.
Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please remain standing.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Giving of Communion

The president says

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

At the Distribution the president says

The body of Christ.

*The communicant replies **Amen**, and then receives.*

After Communion

Please stand

Let us pray

The president says the Post Communion prayer.

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.

All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Dismissal

The president says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

All **Amen.**

The president says

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please remain standing as the clergy depart.

Please take this order of service away with you.

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Truro
Cathedral