



St Laurence Church, Catford

Easter Vigil with Baptism &

Confirmation 30th March 2024, 8pm

First Part: The Service of Light

All the lights in the church are put out and a large fire is prepared in a suitable place outside the church. When the people have assembled the Bishop goes there with the ministers, one of whom carries the Easter candle.

The Bishop greets the congregation in the usual manner and briefly instructs them about the vigil in these words:

Dear friends 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:
if we honour the memory
of his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his
mysteries,
then we may be confident
that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever in God.

Then the fire is blessed.

Let us pray.

Father,

we share in the light of your glory
through your Son, the light of the world.

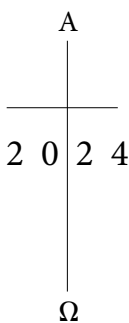
Make this new fire ✠ holy,
and inflame us with new hope.

Purify our minds by this Easter celebration
and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After the blessing of the new fire, an acolyte brings the Easter candle to the bishop, who cuts a cross in the wax with a stylus. Then he traces the Greek letter 'alpha' above the cross, the letter 'omega' below, and the numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross. Meanwhile he says:

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



When the cross and other marks have been made, the Bishop inserts five grains of incense in the candle. He does this in the form of a cross, saying:

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

The Bishop lights the candle from the new fire, saying:

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

PROCESSION

Then a priest takes the candle, lifts it high, and sings
Christ our light.

All reply: **Thanks be to God.**

Then all light their candles from the flame that comes from the Easter candle and process to the church led by the Bishop with the candle. Inside the church, the priest lifts the candle high and sings a second time:

Christ our light.
Thanks be to God.

The procession continues. When the priest arrives before the altar, he turns to face the people; we sing a third time:

Christ our light.
Thanks be to God.

The Easter candle is placed on the stand in the middle of the sanctuary. The Easter proclamation is sung. All stand and hold lighted candles.

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!

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up 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 first you saved our fathers:

you freed the people of Israel from their slavery

and led them dry-shod through the sea.
 This is the night when the pillar of fire
 destroyed the darkness of sin!
 This is the night when Christians everywhere,
 washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement,
 are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.
 This is the night when Jesus Christ
 broke the chains of death
 and rose triumphant from the grave.
 What good would life have been to us,
 had Christ not come as our Redeemer?
 Father, how wonderful your care for us!
 How boundless your merciful love!
 To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.
 O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam,
 which gained for us so great a Redeemer!
 Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God
 to see Christ rising from the dead!
 Of this night scripture says:
 "The night will be as clear as day:
 it will become my light, my joy".
 The power of this holy night
 dispels all evil, washes guilt away,
 restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy.
 It casts out hatred, brings us peace,
 and humbles earthly pride.
 Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth
 and humankind is reconciled with God!
 Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night,
 receive our evening sacrifice of praise,
 your Church's solemn offering.
 Accept this Easter candle,
 a flame divided but undimmed,
 a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God.
 Let it mingle with the lights of heaven, and continue
 bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night!
 May the Morning Star which never sets
 find this flame still burning:
 Christ, that Morning Star,
 who came back from the dead,
 and shed his peaceful light on all mankind,
 your Son who lives and reigns
 for ever and ever.



SECOND PART: LITURGY OF THE WORD

After the Easter proclamation all sit down. Please keep your candles alight until after the Gospel. Before the readings the Bishop speaks to the people in these words:

Dear friends in Christ,
 we have begun our solemn vigil.
 Let us now listen attentively to the word of God,
 recalling how he saved his people throughout history
 and, in the fullness of time,
 sent his own Son to be our Redeemer.
 Through this Easter celebration,
 may God bring to perfection
 the saving work he has begun in us.

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1-2:2

A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night'. Evening came and morning came — the first day.

God said, 'Let there be a vault in the waters to divide the waters in two.' And so it was. God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called the vault 'heaven'. Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.' And so it was. The earth produced vegetation, plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.' And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and every kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let, the birds multiply upon the earth.' Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.' God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.' God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

PSALM Psalm 104: Benedic, anima mea



Send forth your spi - rit, Lord, and re - new the face of the earth.



PRAISE the Lord, O my soul:

O Lord my God, thou art become exceeding glorious; * thou art clothed with majesty and honour.

Thou deckest thyself with light as it were with a garment:

and spreadest out the heavens like a curtain.

He laid the foundations of the earth:

that it never should move at any time.

Thou coveredst it with the deep like as with a garment:
the waters stand in the hills.

He sendeth the springs into the rivers:

which run among the hills.

All beasts of the field drink thereof:

and the wild asses quench their thirst.

Beside them shall the fowls of the air have their habitation:

and sing among the branches.

He watereth the hills from above:

the earth is filled with the fruit of thy works.

He bringeth forth grass for the cattle:

and green herb for the service of men;

O Lord, how manifold are thy works:

in wisdom hast thou made them all;

The earth is full of thy riches.

O my soul, praise the Lord!

Repeat antiphon.

All stand for the prayer said by the Bishop:

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,

you created all things in wonderful beauty and order.

Help us now to perceive

how still more wonderful is the new creation

by which in the fullness of time

you redeemed your people

through the sacrifice of our passover, Jesus

Christ,

who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

SECOND READING Genesis 22:1-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God put Abraham to the test, 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am,' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said, your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

Rising early next morning Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He chopped wood for the burnt offering and

started on his journey to the place God had pointed out to him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then Abraham said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and come back to you.'

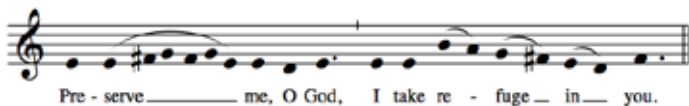
Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering, loaded it on Isaac, and carried in his own hands the fire and the knife. Then the two of them set out together. Isaac spoke to his father Abraham, 'Father,' he said. 'Yes, my son,' he replied. 'Look,' he said 'here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' Abraham answered, 'My son, God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.' Then the two of them went on together.

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac, and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son. Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. Abraham called this place 'The Lord provides', and hence the saying today: On the mountain the Lord provides. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self — it is the Lord who speaks — because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

This is the word of the Lord.

PSALM Psalm 15, Conserva me, Domine



The Lord himself is the portion of mine inheritance, and of my cup:

thou shalt maintain my lot.

I have set God always before me:

for he is on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall.

Wherefore my heart was glad, and my glory rejoic'd:
my flesh also shall rest in hope.

For why? thou shalt not leave my soul in hell:

neither shalt thou suffer thy Holy One to see
corruption.

Thou shalt shew me the path of life; * in thy presence is the fulness of *joy*:

and at thy right hand there is pleasure *for* evermore.

repeat antiphon

All stand for the prayer:

Let us pray.

God and Father of all who believe in you,
you promised Abraham
that he would become the father of all nations,
and through the death and resurrection of
Christ

you fulfil that promise:

everywhere throughout the world

you increase your chosen people.

May we respond to your call

by joyfully accepting your invitation
to the new life of grace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIRD READING Exodus 14:15-15:1

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for, myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.'

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long.

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and of cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried 'the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!' 'Stretch out your hand over the sea,' the Lord said to Moses 'that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.' Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord

overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:



The choir takes up the Canticle immediately.

I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously:

the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation:

he is my God, and I will praise him; * my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a man of war:

the Lord is his name.

Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea:

his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

The depths have cover'd them:

they sank into the bottom as a stone.

Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in pow'r:

thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance,

in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in,

in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

Repeat antiphon

(Exodus 15:1-6:18)

All stand for the prayer:

Let us pray.

Father, even today we see the wonders of the miracles you worked long ago.

You once saved a single nation from slavery, and now you offer that salvation to all through baptism.

May the peoples of the world become true sons of Abraham

and prove worthy of the heritage of Israel.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION

With everyone standing, the Bishop proclaims:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

And everyone replies:

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Immediately, there is a fanfare, while all present greet the resurrection with bells and rattles. The organ starts up the Gloria, which is taken up by everyone present:

*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.

Let us pray. *(Remain standing)*

Lord of all life and power
who through the 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. **Amen.**

EPISTLE Romans 6:3-11 *(Please sit down)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

All now rise; the 'Alleluia' is solemnly intoned by the Bishop, and is repeated by all present.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117

Response: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

GOSPEL Mark 16:1-8

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Salome brought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" But when they looked they could see that the stone — which was very big — had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, "There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you." And the women came out and ran away from the tomb, because they were frightened out of their wits; and they said nothing to a soul, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ

Please extinguish your candles. The homily by the bishop follows.

PART THREE: LITURGY OF BAPTISM

The Bishop with the ministers goes to the baptismal font and addresses the people in these words:

Dear friends in Christ,
as our brothers and sisters approach
the waters of rebirth,
let us help them by our prayers
and ask God, our almighty Father,
to support them with his mercy and love.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates for baptism stand.

The bishop asks the candidates for baptism:

Calum, do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The candidates for confirmation stand, and the bishop asks:

Simone, Valeria, Miles, Donna, Vanessa, Maureen, Dorna and Hilma, have you been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

and then he asks all the candidates:

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

The whole congregation stand, and the bishop asks them.

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 life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

DECISION

The bishop addresses all the candidates.

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 turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

The candidate for baptism remains in their pew, and the bishop makes the sign of the cross on their foreheads, saying Christ claims you for his own:
receive the sign of his cross.

When the candidate for baptism has been signed, the bishop says to them:

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

**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.

Amen.

THE LITANY

All remain standing for the Litany, while the bishop pours water into the font.

Lord, have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Holy Mary, Mother of God

Saint Michael

Holy Angels of God

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

pray for us

pray for us

pray for us

Saint John the Baptist	pray for us
Saint Joseph	pray for us
Saint Peter and Saint Paul	pray for us
Saint Andrew	pray for us
Saint John	pray for us
Saint Mary Magdalene	pray for us
Saint Stephen	pray for us
Saint Ignatius	pray for us
Saint Laurence	pray for us
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity	pray for us
Saint Agnes	pray for us
Saint Gregory	pray for us
Saint Augustine	pray for us
Saint Athanasius	pray for us
Saint Basil	pray for us
Saint Martin	pray for us
Saint Benedict	pray for us
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic	pray for us
Saint Francis Xavier	pray for us
Saint John Vianney	pray for us
Saint Catherine	pray for us
Saint Teresa	pray for us
All holy men and women	pray for us
Lord, be merciful	Lord, save your people
From all evil	Lord, save your people
From every sin	Lord, save your people
From everlasting death	Lord, save your people
By your coming as man	Lord, save your people
By your death and rising to new life	Lord, save your people
By your gift of the Holy Spirit	Lord, save your people
Be merciful to us sinners	Lord, save your people
By your grace, bless this font where your children will be reborn	Lord, hear our prayer
Jesus, Son of the living God	Lord, hear our prayer
Christ, hear us	Christ, hear us
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer	Lord Jesus, hear our prayer

THE BLESSING OF WATER

The Bishop then says the blessing of the baptismal 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.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,

to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptise into his fellowship those who come to him
in faith.

*The bishop lowers the Easter candle into the water three
times, as he continues*

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your
Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

He holds the candle in the water

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of
faith

and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ
our Lord;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen

*Then the candle is taken out of the water, as the people
sing three times*

Springs of water, bless the Lord.

Give him glory and praise for ever.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The bishop addresses the congregation:

Dear friends,

through the paschal mystery

we have been buried with Christ in baptism,

so that we may rise with him to a new life.

Now that we have completed our lenten observance,

let us renew the promises we made in baptism,

when we rejected Satan and his works,

and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy
Catholic church.

And so:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of
all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who
took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit, who gives
life to the people of God and makes Christ known in
the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

BAPTISM

The candidate for baptism come to the front; his sponsors are invited to stand nearby; and the bishop addresses him by name, saying to him

Calum, is this your faith?

and the candidate answers

This is my faith.

The bishop pours water on him, saying

I baptise you

in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The bishop says

Calum

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.
Amen.

THE ASPERGING

Those who are going to be confirmed along with the Bishop sprinkle the whole people with the blessed water to remind everyone of their own baptism, while all sing 'I saw water' as many times as necessary:

I saw water flowing

from the right side of the temple, alleluia.

It brought God's life and his salvation,

and the people sang in joyful praise:

alleluia, alleluia!

CONFIRMATION

All those seeking confirmation now stand. The congregation sit or kneel. The bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed, and says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.

The bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says:

Almighty and ever living God,
you have given these your servants new birth
in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.

Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;

the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;

the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;

and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord. Amen.

The candidates come individually to kneel before the bishop. People's sponsors stand beside them, putting their left hand on the candidate's right shoulder. The bishop anoints each one individually, addressing them by name, saying:

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying:

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PART FOUR: LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Bishop goes to the altar and begins the liturgy of the Eucharist in the usual way

The prayer over the gifts

Lord, accept the prayers and offerings of your people.
With your help,
may this Easter mystery of our redemption
bring to perfection
the saving work you have begun in us.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

God of power and might;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these your gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the
whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and
glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in
glory,

we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St Laurence and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Remaining standing, we all say together the Lord's prayer
(please raise your hands if you wish with the clergy)*

**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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many, we are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Please kneel

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world: grant us peace.**

The Bishop invites us to come to the altar to receive communion. All who are prepared and accustomed to receiving communion are welcome to do so with us tonight. In any case everyone is welcome to come up to the altar for a blessing. (Please bow your head).

During communion, the choir will sing 'O crux benedicta' by Emily Hazrati, and then all sing the communion hymns.

O crux benedicta! Quae sola fuisti digna, portare
Regem coelorum, et Dominum, alleluia

*(O blessed cross, who alone was worthy to bear our Lord,
the king of heaven – alleluia!)*

Communion Hymns (as necessary)

Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won;
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened Paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!



WALKING in a garden

At the close of day,
Adam tried to hide him
When he heard God say:
'Why are you so frightened,
Why are you afraid?
You have brought the winter in,
Made the flowers fade.'

Walking in a garden
Where the Lord had gone,
Three of the disciples,
Peter, James and John;
They were very weary,
Could not keep awake,
While the Lord was kneeling there,
Praying for their sake.

Walking in a garden
At the break of day,
Mary asked the gardener
Where the body lay;
But he turned towards her,
Smiled at her and said:
'Mary, spring is here to stay,
Only death is dead.'



Ye choirs of new Jerusalem
your sweetest notes employ,
the paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.

For Judah's Lion bursts his chains,
crushing the serpent's head;
and cries aloud through death's domains
to wake the imprisoned dead.

Devouring depths of hell their prey
at his command restore;
his ransomed hosts pursue their way
where Jesus goes before.

Triumphant in his glory now
to him all power is given;
to him in one communion bow
all saints in earth and heaven.

While we his soldiers praise our King,
his mercy we implore,
within his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.
Alleluia. Amen.

St Fulbert of Chartres (d 1028)

AFTER COMMUNION

Communion Antiphon:

*Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with
the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, alleluia.*

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness,
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us
may raise us to eternal joy. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF CANDLES

*Lit candles are now distributed to those who have been
baptised and confirmed.*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and 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.

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



BLESSING

*Finally, the Bishop blesses the people and sings the dismissal
Go in the peace of Christ, alleluia, alle---luia.*

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alle---luia.

The Bishop, priests and ministers process to the front of the altar, and then all sing the 'Regina Coeli':

**Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven: alleluia
He whom thou wast meet to bear: alleluia
As he promised hath arisen: alleluia
Pour for us to God thy prayer: alleluia!**

V: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

R: For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

The Bishop prays:

O God, who by the resurrection of thy Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
hath brought joy to the whole world;
grant that through his Mother the Virgin Mary
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life .
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Organ voluntary

Please stay for an Easter party in the church hall after the service (through the double doors behind the choir) — and have a happy and blessed Easter!

There will be a glorious sung mass here at St Laurence's at 10am tomorrow morning. (Those who received communion here at this service are also welcome to receive communion again tomorrow morning here or at their own church).

Please remember in your prayers those who were baptised and confirmed this evening: Valeria, Vanessa, Miles, Simone, Calum, Maureen, Dorna, Hilma and Dona

