



Blyth Valley Parishes

Easter Vigil

Welcome to this service. Worship follows the order set out below. Please join in by reading the words in **Bold type**. The Minister will direct where alternative texts are offered. If you are able, you are invited to stand and sit as suggested. Please let us know if you need us to bring Communion to you. Do ask the people you met at the door if you need any assistance. We pray you find this experience of God with us meaningful, healing and life-changing.

The Service of Light

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord.

We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,
confident that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever in God.

The fire is lit

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.**

Easter Candle is presented

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.**

Easter Candle is marked

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

Easter Candle is lit

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

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Easter Candle is raised

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Parish lights are lit

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

The Exsultet

**Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Around God's throne exult in harmony!
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Salute your King in glorious symphony!**

**Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past, the day of life is here!**

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

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

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

This is the night when you first saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery
and leading her safely through the sea.
Glory to you for ever.

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

Glory to you for ever.

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin,
restored to grace and holiness,
and share the victory of Christ.

Glory to you for ever.

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

Glory to you for ever.

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

Glory to you for ever.

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

Glory to you for ever.

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 Vigil

Sit

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.

Readings: Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 4a
Exodus 14: 10 - 31; 15: 20 - 21
Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14

Bells are rung

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**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 that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Silence

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. **Amen.**

Reading: Romans 6: 3 - 11

Psalm 114

When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel his dominion. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The sea looked and fled;
Jordan turned back.
The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Why is it, O sea, that you flee?
O Jordan, that you turn back?
O mountains, that you skip like rams?
O hills, like lambs? **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Gradual Hymn

Stand

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Year A: Matthew 28.1-10

Year B: Mark 16.1-8

Year C: Luke 24.1-12

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Initiation

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.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

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

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

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

I come to Christ.

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sprinkling

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all 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.**

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 Peace

Stand

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

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Shake hands

Offertory Hymn

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. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is 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 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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

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 Mary, St Peter, St Andrew, St Michael 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.**

Sit

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom
come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and
for ever. Amen.**

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

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

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

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Distribution of Communion

The Post Communion Prayer

Sit

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. **Amen.**

Hymn

Stand

The Blessing

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

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Recessional

Stand for exit of minister(s)

Sit as minister(s) leaves chancel or reaches crossing

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