

# St Luke's Church, Jersey

**HOLY SATURDAY**

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

## **The Easter Vigil**



The Easter Vigil is the most important Eucharist of the year. It celebrates our faith in the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of our belief.

The four parts of the Easter Vigil move us through the gradual unfolding of the Easter Mystery.

**The Service of Light** shatters the darkness and illuminates the entire church with its brilliance, as we praise God for the resurrection in the ancient Easter proclamation, the *Exultet*.

**The Liturgy of the Word** opens up the path of God's plan of salvation.

In the **Liturgy of Baptism**, the focus shifts to the font and our belief that it is through our baptism that we come to share in Christ's Passover from the chains of sin and death to the new life of the resurrection. In celebration of this wonderful truth, we renew our baptismal commitment.

**The Liturgy of the Eucharist** is the climax of the celebration as we experience the revitalising grace of the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

*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 Our Lord.*

### **The Service of Light**

*The Liturgy begins in darkness with the blessing of the new fire and the blessing and lighting of the Paschal Candle, the symbol that speaks of the reality of the light of the risen Christ coming into the darkness of the world.*

*Following an introduction, and the blessing of the new fire, the Priest, using a stylus, traces a cross upon the candle, forming the Greek letter ALPHA above it, and OMEGA below and forming the four numerals of the current year saying:*

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

*He then inserts the five grains of incense saying:*

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

*The Candle is lit with the words:*

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

*The Priest then proclaims:*

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

## **The Easter Proclamation (Exultet)**

*The Easter or Paschal proclamation is an ancient song of praise celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord. It is traditionally called the Exultet because of its opening words if sung in Latin. In it we are invited to recall the saving act of Our Lord into which we are drawn by sharing in this Easter Vigil.*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading**

*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 waters under heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.' And so it was. God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas', and God saw that it was good.

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 made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. 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 the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles, and every kind of wild beast.' And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

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.

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

## Responsorial Psalm

All            Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.  
**Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!

All            **Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

You founded the earth on its base,  
to stand firm from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:  
the waters stood higher than the mountains.

All            **Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow in between the hills.  
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;  
from the branches they sing their song.

All            **Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

From your dwelling you water the hills;  
earth drinks its fill of your gift.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle  
and the plants to serve man's needs.

All            **Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
Bless the Lord, my soul!

All **Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

## Prayer

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 your passover, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Second Reading

*A reading from the Book of the 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 God, 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

All I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!  
**I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!**

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!  
Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!  
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.  
This is my God and I extol him,  
my father's God and I give him praise.

All **I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!**

The Lord is a warrior! 'The Lord' is his name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,  
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.  
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone.

All **I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!**

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,  
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.  
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe.

All **I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!**

You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,  
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,  
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.  
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.

All **I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!**

## Prayer

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.**

## Third Reading

*A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, the members of the House of Israel used to live in their own land, but they defiled it by their conduct and actions. I then discharged my fury at them because of the blood they shed in their land and the idols with which they defiled it. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them in foreign countries. I sentenced them as their conduct and actions deserved. And now they have profaned my holy name among the nations where they have gone, so that people say of them, "These are the people of the Lord; they have been exiled from his land." But I have been concerned about my holy name, which the House of Israel has profaned among the nations where they have gone.

'And so, say to the House of Israel, "The Lord says this: I am not doing this for your sake, House of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I mean to display the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them. And the nations will learn that I am the Lord – it is the Lord who speaks – when I display my holiness for your sake before their eyes. Then I am going to take you from among the nations and gather you together from all the foreign countries, and bring you home to your own land.

“I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols. I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you, and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances. You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors. You shall be my people and I will be your God.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.

All **Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.**

My soul is thirsting for God,  
the God of my life;  
when can I enter and see  
the face of God?

All **Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.**

These things will I remember  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd  
into the house of God,  
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,  
the throng wild with joy.

All **Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.**

O send forth your light and your truth;  
let these be my guide.  
Let them bring me to your holy mountain,  
to the place where you dwell.

All **Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.**

And I will come to the altar of God,  
the God of my joy.  
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,  
O God, my God.

All **Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.**

### Prayer

God of unchanging power and light,  
look with mercy and favour on your entire Church.  
Bring lasting salvation to humanity,  
so that the world may see  
the fallen lifted up,  
the old made new,  
and all things brought to perfection,  
through him who is their origin,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Gloria in Excelsis** *is sung by the choir, during which the altar candles are lit, lights switched on and bells are rung.*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

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

### **The Prayer for the Day**

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.**

### **Fourth Reading**

*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 Christian dies, of course, they have 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 anymore. 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.

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

## The Gospel Acclamation

*The priest proclaims the Alleluia, which is repeated by all:*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
All **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## The Gospel

The Lord be with you  
All **and also with you**  
✠ Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, 'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?' And they remembered his words.

When the women returned from the tomb they told all this to the Eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, but this story of theirs seemed pure nonsense, and they did not believe them.

Peter, however, went running to the tomb. He bent down and saw the binding cloths but nothing else; he then went back home, amazed at what had happened.

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

## The Homily

## The Baptismal Liturgy

*The Priest and servers proceed to the font, during the recitation of the Litany of the Saints.*

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy**

Holy Mary, Mother of God  
Saint Michael  
Holy angels of God  
Saint John the Baptist  
Saint Joseph  
Saint Peter and Saint Paul  
Saint Andrew  
Saint John  
Saint Mary Magdalen  
Saint Stephen  
Saint Luke and Saint James  
Saint Ignatius  
Saint Lawrence  
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity  
Saint Agnes  
Saint Gregory

**pray for us  
pray for us  
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pray for us**



Saint Augustine	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Athanasius	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Basil	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Martin	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Benedict	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Francis Xavier	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint John Vianney	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Catherine	<b>pray for us</b>
Saint Theresa	<b>pray for us</b>
All Holy men and women	<b>pray for us</b>
Lord, be merciful	<b>Lord, deliver us, we pray</b>
From all evil	<b>Lord, deliver us, we pray</b>
From every sin	<b>Lord, deliver us, we pray</b>
From everlasting death	<b>Lord, deliver us, we pray</b>
By your Incarnation	<b>Lord, deliver us, we pray</b>
By your death and Resurrection	<b>Lord, deliver us, we pray</b>
By your gift of the Holy Spirit	<b>Lord, deliver us, we pray</b>
Be merciful to us sinners	<b>Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer</b>
Jesus Son of the living God	<b>Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer</b>
Christ, hear us	<b>Christ, hear us</b>
Christ, graciously hear us.	<b>Christ, graciously hear us.</b>

## **Blessing of the Waters of Baptism**

*The Priest blesses the baptismal water, lowering the Paschal Candle into it, symbolising that it is through the waters of baptism that we rise with Christ and are lit with his Resurrection light.*

## **The Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

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.

Therefore I ask:

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

All Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?  
**I renounce them.**

All Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?  
**I repent of them.**

All Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?  
**I turn to Christ.**

All Do you submit to Christ as Lord?  
**I submit to Christ.**

All Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?  
**I come to Christ.**

## The Profession of Faith

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

All Do you believe and trust in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty  
creator of heaven and earth.**

All 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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

All 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.**

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.**

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 Eucharist

### The Peace

*The Priest introduces the Peace, and then says*

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

*The Priest and servers return to the altar and the gifts of bread and wine are prepared as the following hymn is sung.*

**Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
can, O death, no more appal us;  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall 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  
nought from us his love shall sever;  
life, nor death, nor pow'rs 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!**

*Words: Christian Gellert (1715-69) Tr Frances Cox (1812-97)  
Music : H J Gauntlett (1805-76)*

*At the conclusion of the hymn, the Priest invites us to join in the offering of the Eucharist*

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.  
All **May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands,  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

*The Priest says the Prayer over the Gifts*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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 him thanks and praise**

*The Priest says Preface for the day, at the end of which we the choir sings*

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.

*After the words of Jesus in the Last Supper, the Priest says*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
All **Dying you destroyed our death:  
Rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*As the Eucharistic Prayer continues we recall the death and resurrection of Jesus, and plead his sacrifice before the Father. The Prayer ends in praise of the Father and we give our acclamation:*

All **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*The priest invites us to join in the Lord's Prayer*

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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread and says*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
All     **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## Agnus Dei

*The following is sung by the choir*

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 Priest then invites us to receive a spiritual Communion*

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
All     **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*and we say together*

**My Jesus, I believe that you  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*The Priest and congregation present in the church now receive Communion.*

During Holy Communion, the choir will sing an anthem.

## Prayer after Communion

### Concluding Rite

#### The Blessing and Dismissal

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

Priest Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

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

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

God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.  
All **Amen.**

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

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*The priest will now move to stand before the statue of Our Lady and the 'Regina Coeli' will be sung. This ancient prayer, dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, is an Easter greeting to Mary, mother of the Lord, who with us worships her risen Son.*

**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!**

Priest Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, alleluia!  
All **For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

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

*The priest returns to the altar as the final hymn is sung. He and the servers reverence the altar and depart*

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
now is the Victor's triumph won;  
O let the song of praise be sung:  
Alleluia!**

**Death's mightiest pow'rs have done their worst,  
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;  
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:  
Alleluia!**

**On the third morn he rose again  
glorious in majesty to reign;  
O let us swell the joyful strain:  
Alleluia!**

**He brake the age-bound chains of hell;  
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;  
let hymns of praise his triumphs tell.  
Alleluia!**

**Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee  
from death's dread sting thy servants free,  
that we may live, and sing to thee.  
Alleluia!**

*Words: Latin 17<sup>th</sup>C, tr Francis Pott (1832-1909)*

*Music: Palestrina (c1525-1594) adapted by W H Monk (1823-1889)*

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