



ST JOHN'S
PEVENSEY ROAD
SERVICE SHEET FOR
HOLY SATURDAY
30TH MARCH 2024

THE FIRST MASS OF
EASTER

The Vigil

Members of the congregation gather in the darkened church, with candles. The Vigil readers gather at the Lectern. The ministers and servers gather around the font.

Priest 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.

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.

A selection of Vigil readings are read. Members of the congregation may sit if necessary.

Genesis. 1:1-2:2

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God



saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights-- the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night-- and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to

rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

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

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

Exodus 14:15-15:1

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.

And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the

army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.

The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.

The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the

four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

The Service of Light

The new fire is kindled.

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

All Amen.

The fire and the Candle are censed. In sight of the people, the deacon brings the Easter Candle to the priest, who traces the cross and then the Greek letter Alpha above and the Greek letter Omega below it. The numbers of the current year are marked in the space between the arms of the cross.

Whilst this is done, the priest 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 and power,
through every age and for
ever.

All Amen.

*Five nails or incense studs may
then be inserted into the Candle,
reminding us of the five wounds of
Christ. As each is inserted, the
priest says*

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

*The candle is asperged and lit.
Priest* May the light of Christ,
rising in glory,
banish all darkness
from our hearts and minds.

*The minister bearing the Candle turns
towards the nave. The minister bearing
the Candle raises it and says or sings*

The light of Christ.
All Thanks be to God.

*The procession stops on two further
occasions, and the people's candles
are lit. The Easter Candle is placed on
a stand in the midst of the building.*

The Easter Acclamation

Priest and Deacon together acclaim

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
All He is risen indeed, Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Exsultet

*The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise)
may be sung or said. After the first
section, the following responses are
used:* 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.**

*The Exsultet continues, culminating
in a final: Amen.*

The Easter Acclamation

Priest Alleluia! Christ is risen!
All He is risen indeed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*A joyful fanfare may be played, bells
rung, etc.*

Gloria in Excelsis

*The Gloria in excelsis is sung by all,
the lights are switched on and the
people's candles extinguished.*

**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 Collect

Priest Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *All Amen.*

New Testament Reading

Romans 6.3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever

has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn

**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 heav'nly King,
Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave,
Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save.
Alleluia!**

**But the pains which he endured,
Alleluia!
our salvation have procured;
Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King,
Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing.
Alleluia!**

Lyra Davidica (1708)

Gospel Reading

Deacon Jesus Christ is risen from the

dead. **All Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death. **All Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing. **All Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life.

All Alleluia.

Deacon The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 24:1-12

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

linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The people's candles are re-lit, as the Procession moves to the font, with the Paschal Candle. The Priest dips the Paschal Candle three times into the font.

Priest In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means being dead to sin and rising to new life with him. 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.

Prayer over the Water

Priest 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.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

Saving God, give us life.

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

Saving God, give us life.

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

Saving God, give us life.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Saving God, give us life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Saving God, give us life.

The Profession of Faith

The priest addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church. Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

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.

The president asperges the congregation, and says

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized into 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.**

The people extinguish their candles

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

Deacon 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!

Priest Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you **All and also with you. Alleluia!**
All may exchange a sign of peace, greeting one another with these words
Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed!

Hymn

During which the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

**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 powers 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 triumph 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!**

Latin 17th century Tr Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Deacon 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.

The priest takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

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.
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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith:

All 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 Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Mary the Mother of God, 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.

All Amen.

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 priest 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.**

The Agnus Dei *is sung by all*

Jesus, Lamb of God, Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, Have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, Give us your peace.

Giving of Communion

The priest says the invitation to communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The priest and people receive communion.

Anthem: This joyful Eastertide – Charles Wood

Hymn

**Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.***

In the grave they laid Him, Love whom men had slain,

**Thinking that never he would wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:**

Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,

He that for three days in the grave had lain;

Quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:

Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,**

Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:

Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

J.M.C. Crum (1872-1958)

Prayer after Communion

Priest 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 Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Final Hymn *The candles of the congregation are re-lit.*

Thine be the glory, risen,
conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er
death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the
stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen,
conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er
death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting: **Refrain**

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
Life is nought without thee:
aid us in our strife,
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above: **Refrain**
*French, Edmond Budry (1854-1932) Tr
Richard Hoyle (1875-1939)*

The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All 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. **All Amen.**

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

The Dismissal

Deacon: With the risen life of Christ
within you, go in the peace of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia.

*Final voluntary: Trumpet tune from
'Te Deum' - Charpentier*



The Small Print: Some material included
in this service is copyright © The
Archbishops' Council 2000 ; and © The
Archbishops' Council 2002; Hymn words
reproduced under CCLI Licence 219821;