



THE EASTER VIGIL
IN THE HOLY NIGHT

Principal Celebrant
Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

Sung by members of the
Choir of Westminster Cathedral

HOLY SATURDAY

3 April 2021 8:30 pm

ORDER OF MASS

All stand in silence as the Cardinal enters.

Cardinal: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, ✠
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Peace be with you.

And with your spirit.

Dear brothers and sisters,
on this most sacred night,
in which our Lord Jesus Christ
passed over from death to life,
the Church calls upon her sons and daughters,
scattered throughout the world,
to come together to watch and pray.
If we keep the memorial
of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way,
listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries,
then we shall have the sure hope
of sharing his triumph over death
and living with him in God.

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Cardinal turns to the lit Paschal Candle, saying:

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

All remain standing.

A Priest sings:

EXSULTET

In this triumphant hymn the Church unfolds the symbolism of the Paschal Candle.

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

It is truly right and just,
with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father;
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These then are the feasts of Passover;
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.

O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.

Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honour of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.

Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

All remain standing.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Cardinal: Dear brothers and sisters,
now that we have begun our solemn Vigil,
let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God.
Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people
and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer.
Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation
by the fullness of redemption.

All sit.

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1. 26-31

FIRST CANTICLE Psalm 103:1-2. 5-6. 10. 12-14. 24. 35 *℟: v.30*

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe! <i>℟:</i> | 3 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. <i>℟:</i> |
| 2 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. <i>℟:</i> | 4 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. <i>℟:</i> |
| 5 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! <i>℟:</i> | |

All stand.

Cardinal: Let us pray.
Almighty ever-living God,
who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works,
may those you have redeemed understand
that there exists nothing more marvellous
than the world's creation in the beginning
except that, at the end of the ages,
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

All sit.

SECOND READING
Exodus 14:15-15:1

SECOND CANTICLE
Exodus 15:1. 2

Cantémus Dómino: glorióse enim honorificátus est: equum et ascensórem proiécit in mare: adiútor et protéctor factus est mihi in salútem. ✠ Hic Deus meus, et honorábo eum: Deus patris mei, et exaltábo eum. ✠ Dóminus cóntrerens bella: Dóminus nomen est illi.

Let us sing to the Lord: For he is gloriously magnified: The horse and the rider He has thrown into the sea: My helper and protector He has brought salvation to me. ✠ He is my God, and I will glorify Him: The God of my father, and I will exalt Him. ✠ The Lord has destroyed war: The Lord is his name.

Plainsong

All stand.

Cardinal: Let us pray.
O God, whose ancient wonders
remain undimmed in splendour even in our day,
for what you once bestowed on a single people,
freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution
by the power of your right hand,
now you bring about as the salvation of the nations
through the waters of rebirth,
grant, we pray, that the whole world
may become children of Abraham
and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All sit.

THIRD READING
Ezekiel 36:16-28

THIRD CANTICLE
Psalm 41:3, 5; 42:3, 4 *℟*: Ps. 41:2

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God? <i>℟</i> . | 3 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. <i>℟</i> . |
| 2 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. <i>℟</i> . | 4 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. <i>℟</i> . |

All stand.

Cardinal: Let us pray.
O God of unchanging power and eternal light,
look with favour on the wondrous mystery
of the whole Church
and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation,
which you planned from all eternity;
may the whole world know and see
that what was cast down is raised up,
what had become old is made new,
and all things are restored to integrity through Christ,
just as by him they came into being.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

All remain standing.

GLORIA

The Cardinal intones:

Glória in excélsis Deo.

Glory to God in the highest.

Bells are rung and the Grand Organ sounds. The whole Cathedral is illuminated.

All sit as the Choir continues:

et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntátis. Laudámus te, benedícimus te, adorámus te, glorificámus te, grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam tuam, Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis, Deus Pater omnípotens. Dómine Fili unigénite, Iesu Christe, Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris, qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis; qui tollis peccáta mundi, súscipe deprecatióem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserére nobis. Quóniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dóminus, tu solus Altíssimus, Iesu Christe, cum Sancto Spíritu: in glória Dei Patris. Amen.

and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. 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.

*Missa secunda pontificalis
Lorenzo Perosi (1872-1956)*

All stand.

COLLECT

Cardinal:

Let us pray.

O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render you undivided service.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever:

Amen.

All sit.

EPISTLE
Romans 6:3-11

All stand with the Cardinal.

EASTER ALLELUIA

The Choir sings the Alleluia and the verse from Psalm 117:

Confitémini Dómino, quóniam bonus: quóniam in sæculum misericórdia eius.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Plainsong

GOSPEL
Mark 16:1-7

All sit.

HOMILY
The Archbishop of Westminster

All stand

BAPTISMAL LITURGY

The Cardinal says:

Dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly beseech the Lord our God
to bless this water he has created,
which will be sprinkled upon us
as a memorial of our Baptism.
May he graciously renew us,
that we may remain faithful to the Spirit
whom we have received.

Cardinal: Lord our God,
in your mercy be present to your people
who keep vigil on this most sacred night,
and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation
and the still greater work of our redemption,
graciously bless this water:

For you created water to make the fields fruitful
and to refresh and cleanse our bodies.
You also made water the instrument of your mercy:
for through water you freed your people from slavery
and quenched their thirst in the desert;
through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant
you were to enter upon with the human race;
and last of all,
through water, which Christ made holy in the Jordan,
you have renewed our corrupted nature
in the bath of regeneration.

Therefore, may this water be for us
a memorial of the Baptism we have received,
and grant that we may share
in the gladness of our brothers and sisters,
who at Easter have received their Baptism.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Cardinal: Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery
we have been buried with Christ in Baptism,
so that we may walk with him in newness of life.
And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded,
let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism,
by which we once renounced Satan and his works
and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

Cardinal: Do you reject Satan,
and all his works,
and all his empty show?

I do.

Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?

I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?

I do.

The Cardinal concludes:

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord,
for eternal life.

Amen.

The Clergy are sprinkled with the blessed water.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

During the preparation of the offerings the choir sings:

OFFERTORY MOTET

Surrexit Christus et Dominus de caelo intonuit: Alleluia. Et altissimus dedit vocem suam.
Alleluia. In die solemnitatis vestrae inducam vos in terram fluentem lac et mel: Alleluia.
Populus acquisitionis annuntiate virtutes eius. Alleluia.

Christ has risen and the Lord has thundered from heaven: Alleluia. And the most high gave voice. Alleluia. In the day of your solemn feast I shall lead you into a land flowing with milk and honey. Alleluia. Ye people of his inheritance, proclaim his virtues. Alleluia.

Giovanni Gabrieli (c.1554-1612)

Cardinal: Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Cardinal: Accept, we ask, O Lord,
the prayers of your people
with the sacrificial offerings,
that what has begun in the paschal mysteries
may, by the working of your power,
bring us to the healing of eternity.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE I OF EASTER The Paschal Mystery

Cardinal: The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

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

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

Cardinal: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,
but on this night above all
to laud you yet more gloriously,
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb
who has taken away the sins of the world;
by dying he has destroyed our death,
and by rising, restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory,
as they acclaim:

SANCTUS

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
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.**

All kneel.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Cardinal: The mystery of faith.
**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

DOXOLOGY

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

All sit.

COMMUNION RITE

Cardinal: At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

Cardinal: Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI

All: **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.**

All kneel.

Cardinal: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

The Cardinal displays the Body and Blood of Christ to all gathered, prior to approaching Holy Communion.

Cardinal: The Body of Christ.
Amen.
The Blood of Christ.
Amen.

Please follow the instructions of the stewards for Holy Communion. Please remove your face covering before reaching the Priest, receive Holy Communion in front of the Priest and then replace your face covering before returning to your place via the side aisles.

Those who are not Roman Catholic or do not wish to receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest to indicate to the Priest that you wish to receive a blessing.

AGNUS DEI II

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi, dona nobis pacem.
*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

*Missa secunda pontificalis
Lorenzo Perosi*

All stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Cardinal:

Let us pray.

Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
and in your kindness make those you have nourished
by this paschal Sacrament
one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SOLEMN BLESSING

Cardinal:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Bow down for the blessing.

May almighty God bless you
through today's Easter Solemnity
and, in his compassion,
defend you from every assault of sin.

Amen.

And may he, who restores you to eternal life
in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten,
endow you with the prize of immortality.

Amen.

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close,
may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast
come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit,
to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Choral-Improvisation sur le "Victimæ Paschali"
Charles Tournemire (1870-1939)

The Cathedral will close immediately after Mass.

*Please take this Order of Service away with you
when you leave.*

Donations towards the work of the Cathedral can be left with the collectors as you leave, or in the collection boxes provided.

You can also continue to support the Cathedral through the donation button on our website
www.westminstercathedral.org.uk

The Administrator, Chaplains and staff of Westminster Cathedral
wish you all
a happy and holy Easter