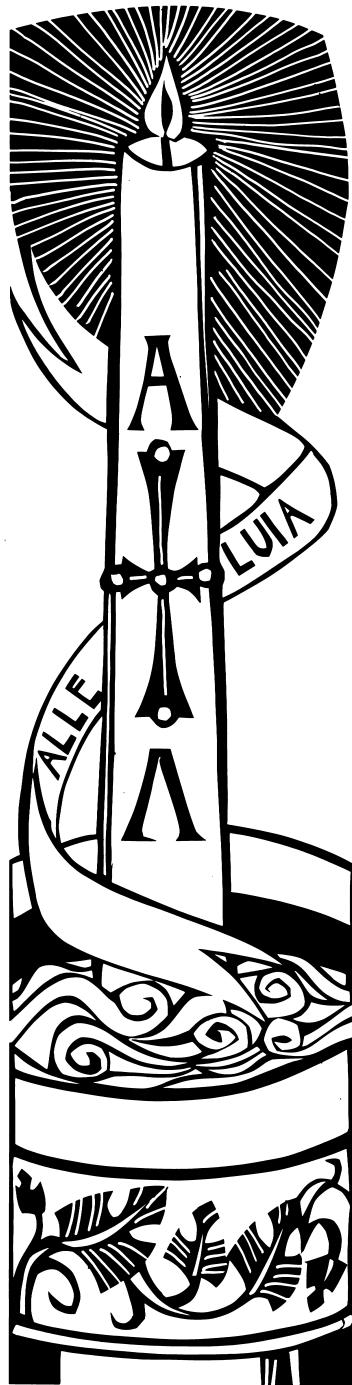


The Parish Church of St Faith, Great Crosby

# The Easter Liturgy





## *The Vigil*

*The ministers enter in silence.*

*The light by which the readings are to be read is lit.*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
to you be glory and praise forever.  
Your steadfast love extends to the heavens  
and your faithfulness never ceases.  
Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom  
and strengthen our lives with your word,  
for you are the fountain of life; in your light we see true light.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*The president introduces the Vigil using these words:*

This is the night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life. The Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death. 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. Let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 1.1.2.4a: Creation*

*Hymn: Thou whose almighty word*

**Thou, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and, where the Gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light!**

**Thou who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
heal to the sick in mind,  
sight to the in-ly blind,  
now to all humankind,  
let there be light!**

**Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight!  
Move on the waters' face  
bearing the gifts of grace,  
and, in earth's darkest place,  
let there be light!**

**Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide,  
let there be light!**

Let us pray that we may see God's image restored.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation.  
Your love cannot be contained  
and it overflows in the wonders of creation.  
You formed the universe out of nothing  
and moulded us from the clay of the earth.  
All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,  
O Lord our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Genesis 3: The Fall*

*Hymn:: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love.**

**Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.**

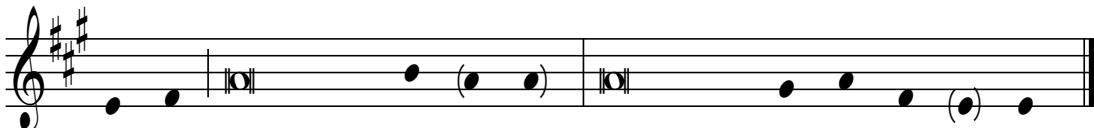
**Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.**

Let us pray that God will show compassion  
on all who fall victim to the power of sin.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation.  
The sin which we dare not confront breaks your heart  
and nothing can be concealed from your sight,  
yet you showed mercy to our ancestors.  
Show mercy today to all who fall prey to sin's lure  
and shatter the power of evil,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: Exodus 14: 10-end, 15.1a: Crossing the Red Sea*

*Canticle: The Song of Moses and Miriam*



I will | sing to the Lord, who has triumphed | gloriously, •  
the horse and his rider he has thrown | into the sea.  
**The Lord is my strength and my | song •**  
**and has be- | come my salvation.**

This is my God whom I will | praise, •  
the God of my forebears whom | I will exalt.  
**The Lord is a | warrior, •**  
**the | Lord is his name.**

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in | power: •  
your right hand, O Lord, | shatters the enemy.  
**At the blast of your nostrils, the sea | covered them; •**  
**they sank as lead in | the mighty waters.**

In your unfailing love, O | Lord, •  
you lead the people whom | you have redeemed.  
**And by your invincible | strength •**  
**you will guide them to | your holy dwelling.**

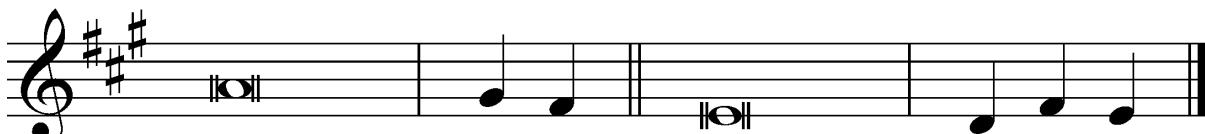
You will bring them in and plant them, O | Lord, •  
in the sanctuary which your | hands have established.  
*Exodus 15.1b-3,6,10,13,17*

Let us pray that God will give freedom to his enslaved people.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
You heard the agony of your people  
as they cried out from their slavery  
and you gave them Moses  
to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey.  
Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today and lead us through  
the turbulent sea of life to our true home with you,  
O Lord our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

*4<sup>th</sup> Reading: Ezekiel 36.24-28: Sprinkled with the water of life*

*Psalm 42.1-7*



As the deer longs for the | water brooks, •  
so longs my soul for | you, O God.

**My soul is athirst for God, \* even for the | living God; •  
when shall I come before the pre- | sence of God?**

My tears have been my bread day | and night, •  
while all day long they say to me, \* 'Where is | now your God?'

**Now when I think on these things, \* I pour out | my soul: •  
how I went with the multitude and led the procession to  
the | house of God,**

Let us pray that God will give to the thirsting a new outpouring of his  
refreshing Spirit.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation.  
When we are overwhelmed by the wasting world,  
gather us again and renew us.

Create in us a new heart and a renewed spirit,  
that we may be a people prepared to live in your land  
and walk in your ways, O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

*5<sup>th</sup> Reading: Ezekiel 37.1-14: The Valley of Dry Bones*

*Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God*

**Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldest do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Blend all my soul with Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.**

Let us pray that God will breathe life into his weary creation.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation.  
You bring life from the darkest valley of death.  
When hope is lost and our dry bones are scattered in shame, speak your word to your broken people,  
that we may stand confidently before you,  
and breathe your Spirit into us that we might live,  
O Lord our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

## *The Service of Light*

*All go in silence to the main entrance. One of the ministers carries the unlit Easter Candle.*

*The new fire is [lit and] blessed.*

*All stand and face the ministers. The president says*  
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.**

*The Easter candle is marked:*  
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.**

*Nails or incense studs are inserted into the Easter Candle.*

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

*The Decision / Renewal of Baptismal Vows*

*Standing before the Candle, the president says*

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. 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.**

*The president lights the Easter Candle, saying*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

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.**

*All now enter the building, following the Easter candle. At three points, the processions stops, and the minister bearing the Candle raises it and says or sings:*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Easter Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the building. The people's candles are lit from it.*

*The Exsultet is sung (in Latin or English)*  
Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
O Universe, dance around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!  
Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,  
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!  
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever!  
Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!  
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

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 Easter Acclamation*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made.

*Gloria in Excelsis*

*During the Gloria, all the candles in the church are lit from the Easter Candle, 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*

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

*A period of silent prayer is kept.*

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.

*New Testament Reading*

Romans 6.3-11

At the end the reader says  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Reading*

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

**Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death.

**Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

**Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life.

**Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

*The Liturgy of Initiation*

*The congregation gathers at or faces the baptismal font.*

*Prayer over the Water*

Praise God who made heaven and earth

**who keeps his promise forever.**

Let us give thank 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 and revive us.

Saving God,

**give us life.**

We thank you that through the deep 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 resurrection,  
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

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 forever.

**Amen.**

*The Profession of Faith*

Let us profess together 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.**

This is the faith of the Church:

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**  
**Amen.**

*The waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people. Alternatively, each member of the congregation may be invited to renew their commitment to Christ by going to the water and making the sign of the cross with it on their forehead.*

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

*The Liturgy of the Eucharist*

*The Peace*

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.

*All may exchange a sign of peace, greeting one another with these words:  
Christ is risen, alleluia!  
He is risen indeed, alleluia!*

*Hymn*

*Preparation of the Table and Taking of the Bread and Wine*

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 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 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Faith  
... 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.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

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

**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 president breaks the consecrated bread.*

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.**

*Agnus Dei*

**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 your peace.**

OR

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us;  
Jesus, Bearer of our Sins, have mercy on us;  
Jesus, Redeemer of the World;  
Grant us peace.**

*Invitation to Communion*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Welcome

*At the distribution of communion, the minister says to each communicant:*

The Body of Christ

The Blood of Christ      and each responds: **Amen.**

*The Post Communion Prayer*

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; t

hrough Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Dismissal*

*Hymn*

*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.**

*The Dismissal*

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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