



PASCHAL VIGIL AND FIRST MASS OF EASTER

HOLY SATURDAY, 11TH APRIL 2020

Tonight we begin in darkness. With the apostles and the holy women, we keep vigil, awaiting the resurrection of the Lord, when His light will truly break into the world.

The Paschal Candle, the great symbol of the risen Lord, is lit. It is held up in the church, dispelling a darkness that has hung over the building since Thursday night, when Jesus was arrested and taken to His death.

The light of the Candle symbolises new light being brought into the world. It is the light of the risen Lord, who dispels the darkness of sin and death. The light of eternal life has been won for us by the sacrifice of our Redeemer.

As we hear readings from the Old Testament, we are united with the People of God throughout history, the countless generations who have awaited and then rejoiced in the saving work of God. But we hear these readings in the light of the risen Lord, who explained the Scriptures to His disciples on the Emmaus road.

Tonight we celebrate God's greatest act of salvation. Jesus Christ rises from the dead; He invites us to follow Him through death and into eternal life. Throughout the world, many people will be baptised and received into the Church on this night, becoming members of God's people, and sharing in the hope of the resurrection.

We celebrate with joy this, the greatest event that the world has ever known, or will ever know: the resurrection is the beginning of a new creation in which all is perfect, all is love, and in which God is all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28).

THE LITURGY OF LIGHT

Each time the Paschal Candle is held up, we acclaim the light of Christ:



THE EXSULTET

The 'Exsultet' is sung, announcing the news of Christ's resurrection.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We now listen to a series of readings, and sing psalms, as we celebrate the great events in the history of God's relationship with His people.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-2:2

God saw all that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

PSALM: 103:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35 R/. cf. v.30



SECOND READING: Genesis 22:1-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.


PSALM: 15:5, 8-11 R/. v.1



THIRD READING: Exodus 14:15-15:1

The sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea.

CANTICLE: Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18 R/. v.1

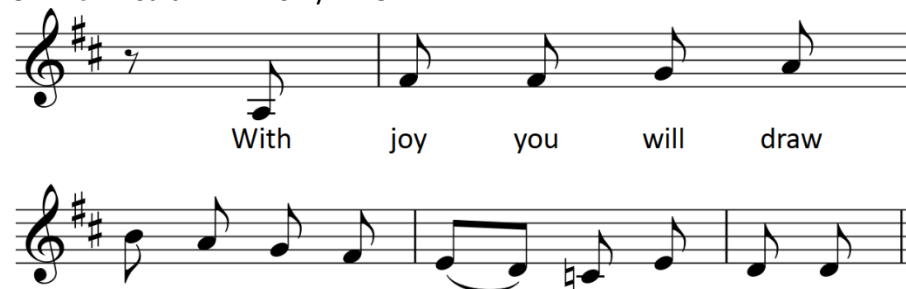


I will sing to the Lord, glo-ri-ous His tri-umph.

FOURTH READING: Isaiah 55:1-11

Come to me and your soul will live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you.

CANTICLE: Isaiah 12:2-6 R/. v. 3



With joy you will draw
wa - ter from the wells_ of sal - va - tion.

GLORIA

The Gloria is intoned, and the church is illuminated. We sign this ancient hymn in praise of God, giving thanks for the resurrection of Jesus.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 6:3-11

Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.

SOLEMN ALLELUIA

The solemn 'Alleluia' is intoned: this word, meaning 'praise God', is used in praise of Christ's resurrection, and has not been used in the liturgy since before Lent. Each time we repeat the 'Alleluia' after the priest:



Al-le - - lu - ia

PSALM: 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23



Al-le-lu-ia, al - le-lu-ia, al-le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

He has risen from the dead and now He is going before you into Galilee.

HOMILY



Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, “Peace be with you”.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

We renew the promises made at our baptism, rejecting sin and professing our faith in God. To each question, we answer: I do. On this night we are very mindful of those who were due to be baptised or received into the Church but now need to wait to receive these gifts, because of the lockdown. We keep them in our prayers.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

As the altar is prepared for the Eucharist, the hymn 'O Filii et Filiae' is sung: O sons and daughters, let us sing; the King of Heaven, the glorious King, this day from death rose triumphing: alleluia! Glory and praise to You, O Christ, who shed for us Your Blood unpriced, Passover Lamb now sacrificed: alleluia!

“Anyone who has heard the Easter proclamation can no longer go around with a tragic expression on his face and lead the humourless existence of a man who has no hope.”

Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805)

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

As the congregation are unable to receive Holy Communion at this time, we are invited to pray a prayer of Spiritual Communion:

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed, alleluia. Therefore let us keep the feast by sharing the unleavened bread of uprightness and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

DISMISSAL



Thanks be to God, al-le-lu - ia, al-le- lu - ia!

FINAL HYMN

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

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

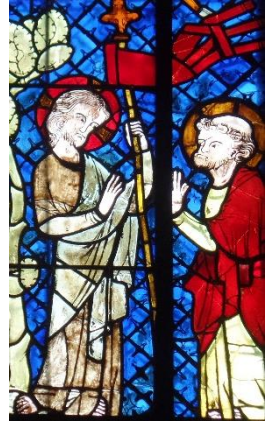
Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing;
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is naught 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.

“The Lord’s triumph,
on the day of the Resurrection, is final.
Where are the soldiers the rulers posted there?
Where are the seals that were fixed to the stone of the tomb?
Where are those who condemned the Master?
Where are those who crucified Jesus?

He is victorious,
and faced with His victory,
those poor wretches have all taken flight.

Be filled with hope: Jesus Christ is always victorious.”



St Josemaría Escrivá (1902-1975)

Tomorrow at St Clare's (livestreamed):

Easter Sunday Mass

10am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

4pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction

4:30pm

This week: Monday-Friday

Mass for the Easter Octave 10am

Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 4-5pm



www.saintclares.co.uk

Hymns reproduced under Calamus license 2458.