**A Simple Liturgy for Holy Saturday**

**For use by individuals or family groups in their home.**

*You may like to be near your front door and have it open so that the words echo out onto the street.*

*At 9pm mark and light the Paschal Candle or any candle you may have.*

**The Lighting of the Paschal Candle**

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*Trace the marks on the candle, saying:*

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.

*Mark the five wounds of Christ on the candle, saying:*

By his holy

and glorious wounds

may Christ our Lord

guard us

and keep us. Amen.

*Light the candle, saying:*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish the darkness from our hearts and minds.

*Lift high the Candle and say:*

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

*Other candles may now be lit.*

**The Easter Proclamation**

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*Sing or say:*

Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the trumpet of salvation!
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,

radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!
Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,

echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices
we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father,
and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
For Christ has ransomed us with his blood,
and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!
This is our passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.
This is the night when first you saved our fathers:
you freed the people of Israel from their slavery
and led them dry-shod through the sea.
This is the night when the pillar of fire

destroyed the darkness of sin!
This is the night when Christians everywhere,
washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement,
are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.
This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.
What good would life have been to us,

had Christ not come as our Redeemer?
Father, how wonderful your care for us!
How boundless your merciful love!
To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.
O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam,
which gained for us so great a Redeemer!
Most blessed of all nights,

chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead!
Of this night scripture says:

"The night will be as clear as day: it will become my light, my joy."
The power of this holy night dispels all evil,
washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy;
it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride.
Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth
and we are reconciled with God!
Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night,
receive our evening sacrifice of praise,

your Church's solemn offering.
Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed,
a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God.
Let it mingle with the lights of heaven

and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night!
May the Morning Star which never sets

find this flame still burning:
Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead,
and shed his peaceful light on all humankind,
your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**The Collect FOR EASTER**

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.

**The Easter Gospel**

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***The Gospel Reading Matthew 28:1-10***

A reading from the Gospel of Christ according to St Matthew.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**The Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

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As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to new life within his family the Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

I reaffirm my renunciation of evil and renew my commitment to Jesus Christ?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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.

With the help of God, I will continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

With the help of God, I will persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

With the help of God, I will proclaim by word and example

the good news of God in Christ.

With the help of God, I will seek to serve Christ in all people,

loving my neighbour as myself.

With the help of God, I will acknowledge Christ’s authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders,

by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice.

May Almighty God,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,

and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins,

keep us in eternal life by his grace,

in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!