



Easter Vigil
And
First Communion
of the Resurrection

**South West
Chelmsford
Churches**

Easter Vigil and First Communion of the Resurrection

The service begins outside the church in the darkness. We listen to readings from the Bible that tell us how God loves and saves his people.

Reading 1: Genesis 1:24

Reading 2: Genesis 3:13,23-24

Song:

Father we love you, we worship and adore you, glorify your name in all the earth

Jesus we love you....

Spirit we love you...

Reading 3: Exodus 14:13, 5-6, 10-23, 28-31

Reading 4: Jeremiah 31:3-14

Song:

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

We light the new fire

Father, we share in the light of your glory
through your Son, the light of the world.

Make this new fire + holy, and inflame us with new hope.

Purify our minds by this Easter celebration,

and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Easter candle is blessed:

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega, all power and time belongs to him,
and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every

age and for ever.

All Amen

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

All Amen.

The Easter candle is lit and the priest says:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ

All Thanks be to God

*we process into church, everyone follows behind the Easter candle. We light
our candles from it and then it is place in its stand next to the
lectern.*

We sing as we process

**Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The day has begun, the night is behind,
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return,
Take seed of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.***

**Go through the park, on into the town,
The sun still shines on, it never goes down,
The Light of the world is risen again,
The people of darkness are needing a friend.
So light up the fire....**

**Open your eyes, look into the skies,
The darkness has gone, the Son came to die,
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.
So light up the fire...**

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The Exsultet - an ancient song of praise is sung.

The lights come on,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

The Collect:

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 for ever.

All Amen

The Epistle: Romans 6:11

Gospel song::The Servant King

**From heaven you came helpless babe
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live**

***This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to The Servant King***

**There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
'Yet not My will but Yours,' He said**

This is our God, The Servant King

**Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered**

This is our God, The Servant King

**So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving**

This is our God, The Servant King

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The Gospel:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

This is the day that the Lord has made

We will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

After the reading

This is the gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ

The Sermon

The blessing of water and renewal of baptism vows

we move to the font and then the priest says:

My brothers and sisters,

let us ask the Lord our God to bless this water he has created
which we shall use to recall our baptism.

May he renew us and keep us faithful to the spirit we have
all received.

Lord our God

+Bless this water, it makes the seed to grow
it refreshes us and makes us clean.

You have made of it a servant of your loving kindness:
through water you set your people free
and quenched their thirst in the desert.

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was baptised by John
and anointed with the Spirit.

Let this water remind us of our baptism;
let us share the joys of our brothers and sisters
who are baptised this Easter

the Easter candle is lowered into the water

We ask you Father, with your Son
to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font.
May we who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism

the candle is taken out of the water

rise also with him to newness of life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Let us now renew the vows made at our baptism:

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.

Almighty God

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all those who have been baptised in your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism,

and so make us ready for that day

when the whole of creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

we are sprinkled with Holy Water.

God the all powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
you have given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,
and forgiven all our sins.

May we keep for ever faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood amongst his disciples and said
'Peace be with you', then they were glad when they saw the
Lord.

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you

All and also with you

The Offertory

Lord accept the prayers and offerings of your people.

With your help may this Easter mystery of our redemption
bring to perfection the saving work you have begun in us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Lift up your hearts

All we lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All It is right to give him thanks and praise

Father all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise you with greater joy than ever on this Easter feast
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.

He is the true Lamb who took away the sins of the world.
By dying he destroyed our death; by rising he restored our life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven we proclaim
your glory for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord;
holy is the Lord God almighty!
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord;
Holy is the Lord God almighty!
Who was, and is, and is to come!
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

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

All 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 your 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 all the saints
may praise and glorify you forever

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

by whom and with whom and in whom

in the unity of the spirit

all honour and glory be yours almighty Father

forever and ever.

All Amen

All Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come, your will be done

On earth as in heaven

Give us today your daily bread

And forgive us our sins

**As we forgive those who sin against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For Kingdom, the power and the glory,
Are yours, now and forever. Amen**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**All Though we are many we are one body because
we all share in one bread**

We say together

**All 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 peace.**

Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper

**All Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say
the word and I shall be healed**

All those who love the Lord are welcome at his table. If you take communion in your own church you are welcome to do so here. You are also very welcome to come to the communion rail and receive God's blessing. Please bring this service booklet with you.

After communion we sing together the Taize chant

**Eat this bread, drink this cup ,
come to him and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to him and you will not thirst.**

We pray together:

**All Lord we have broken your bread
And received your life
By the power of your Spirit
Keep us always in your love
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Blessing

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 rest upon you and all those you love
this day and always. **Amen**

Final Song: How Great Thou Art

**O LORD my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made;
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

**And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in:
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!**

Go in the peace of the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia
All In the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia

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