



CADEIRLAN
LLANELWY
ST ASAPH
CATHEDRAL

Noswyl y Pasg



The Solemn Vigil, Renewal of Baptismal Promises & the First Eucharist of Easter

4 Ebrill 2026 7pm 4 April 2026

Estynwn groeso cynnes i chi i Wasanaeth Noswyl y Pasg
We warmly welcome you to the Easter Vigil.

Introduction to the Easter Vigil

As the sun sets on Holy Saturday, we assemble to take up our vigil where the Liturgy of Good Friday ended: at the tomb. In the gathering darkness we begin the Vigil as watchers who await the dawn. As the night gives way to the dawning light of the rising sun, so the darkness of the world gives way to the Rising of the Son of God!

The Blessing of the New Fire, the Procession of the Paschal Candle into the darkened church and the singing of the Exsultet, the ancient Easter Proclamation, not only form the entrance rite of our Eucharist of the Resurrection, but also provide the most graphic summary of our Easter celebration.

The form of the Liturgy of the Easter Vigil goes back nearly two thousand years to the very early days of the Church.

The Liturgy is in four parts:

- 1 The Liturgy of the Word
- 2 The Liturgy of Light
- 3 The Liturgy of Baptism
- 4 The Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Easter Liturgy is not just a matter of remembering events that happened long ago. All we do, or say, or sing has this single theme:

**Tonight we celebrate OUR Passover with our risen Lord
from darkness to light**



Holy Week—The symbolism of light at the Vigil service

The Liturgy of the Word

After the Procession has entered the darkened Cathedral we listen to a series of readings which recall some of God's great saving interventions in human history.

First, the Bishop says

Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy 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; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis 1. 1 - 2. 2

Psalm 104 1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24.25

All sing the response after the choir then following each verse



1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God how great you are.
Clothed in majesty and glory
wrapped in light as in a robe. **R . . .**
2. You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age to age.
You wrapped it with ocean like a cloak,
the waters stood higher than the mountains. **R . . .**
3. You make springs gush forth in the valleys,
they flow in between the hills.
On the banks dwell the birds of heaven:
from their branches they sing their song. **R . . .**
4. From your dwelling you water the hills,
earth drinks its fill of your gift,
you make grass grow for the cattle
and plants to serve our needs. **R . . .**

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. **R . . .**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis 22. 1-18

Psalm 16: vv 5, 9 & 11

All sing after the choir and then following each verse



Pre-serve me, God, I take re - fuge in you.

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight;
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R . . .**

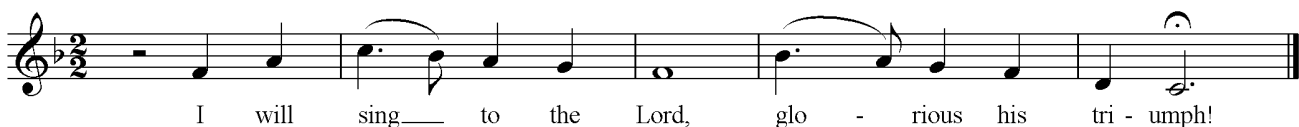
2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead
nor let your beloved know decay. **R . . .**

3. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence.
At your right hand happiness for ever. **R . . .**

A Reading from the Book of Exodus 14. 15 – 15. 1

Canticle Exodus 15

All sing after the choir and the following each verse



1. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!
Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.

This is my God and I extol him,
my father's God and I give him praise. **R . . .**

2. The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone. **R . . .**

3. Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,
your right hand, Lord has shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe. **R . . .**

4. You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,
the sanctuary Lord which your hands have made.
The Lord will reign for ever and ever. **R . . .**

The Liturgy of Light

The Altar Party process to the back of the Cathedral and the fire is lit and blessed:

Let us pray:

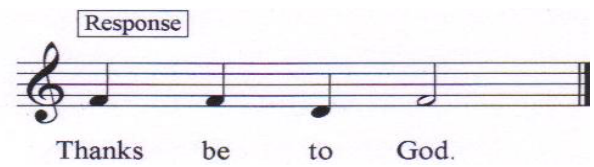
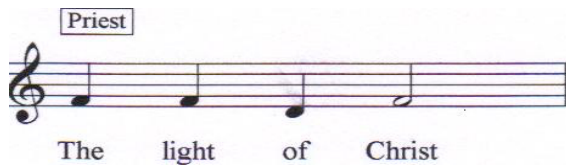
Lord God,
gathered in your light,
your glory brightens the faces of your faithful people;
Bless this new fire,
and by our Easter celebrations
inflame our hearts with love for you
and purify our minds
that we may come to the light that never ends;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

*The Paschal candle is lit from the newly kindled fire
May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. **Amen.***

The Candle, symbolising the Light of Christ leads a procession pausing three times as we sing:



The candles which have been distributed to members of the congregation are lit from the Paschal candle, which is then placed on its stand. Candles on the altar and then other candles in the Cathedral are lit from the Paschal Candle.

The Exultet is then proclaimed

*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 mankind,
your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

All:



Amen.

*The lights are switched on, there is an organ fanfare and the bells are rung.
- The people's candles remain alight*

The Gloria

*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.*

Missa Alme Pater, Andrew Millington

The Collect

Let us pray:

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.**

Please Sit

Romans 6. 3-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

For the word of the Lord:

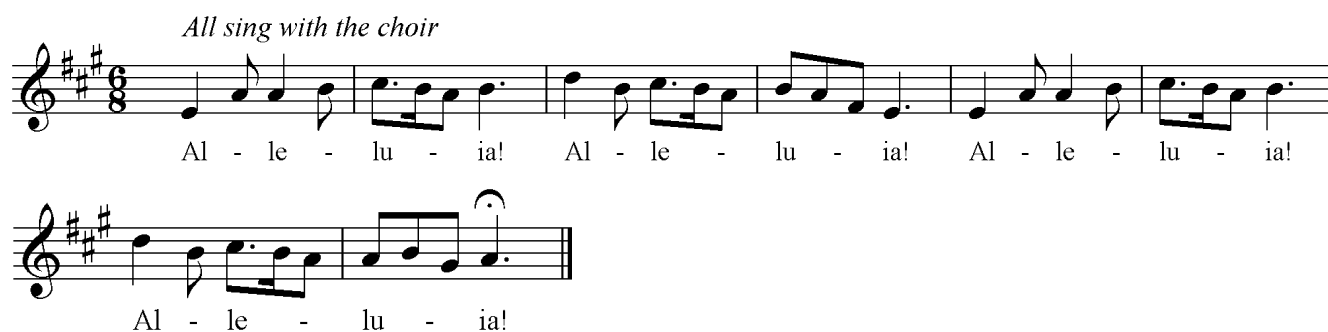
Thanks be to God.

The Easter Anthems

*Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:
so let us celebrate the feast,
not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:*

*death has no more dominion over him.
 In dying he died to sin once for all:
 in living he lives to God.
 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:
 and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Christ has been raised from the dead:
 the first fruits of those who sleep.
 For as by man came death:
 by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;
 for as in Adam all die:
 even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

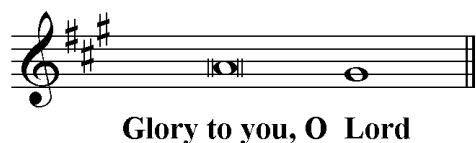
The Gospel Reading



Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew.



After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then 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.' ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and

worshipped him. ¹⁰Then 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:



Praise to you, O Christ

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Homily - Canon Richard Peers

Please Sit

The Liturgy of Baptism

The Altar Party process to the Font and The Blessing of the Baptismal Water takes place. During the procession this Litany is sung

Let us pray.

God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
have mercy upon us.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your grace bless this font
where your children will be reborn.

Hear us, good Lord.

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,
and to make disciples of all the nations.

Hear us, good Lord.

Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to
amend our lives according to your holy word.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Bishop blesses the water in the Font

We give thanks to you, O God:
we bless your holy name.

For your gift of water to nourish and sustain all life,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through the waters of the sea
you led the children of Israel from slavery to freedom:
we give you thanks and praise.

At his baptism, your Son Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit:
we give you thanks and praise.

Through the power of that same Spirit, sanctify this water
that your children who are washed in it
may be united with Christ in his death and resurrection.
Cleanse and deliver them from all sin;
bring them to new birth in the family of your Church
and make them inheritors of your kingdom:
through Jesus Christ our Lord
whom, by the power of the Spirit,
you raised to live with you
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

My brothers and sisters,

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, so that we may rise with him to new life within the family of his Church.

Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, let us renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil

Let us now proclaim the Christian faith into which we were baptized and in which we live and grow

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, the Creator of all?

I believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world?

I believe and trust in God the Son.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life?

I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

God, the all-powerful, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven us all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Everyone is then sprinkled with baptismal water as a token of God's renewing grace.

During the sprinkling the Cathedral Choir sings:

We shall draw water joyfully, Paul Inward

Please join in with the response:

We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully;

We shall draw water joyfully from the well-springs of salvation.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said: Peace be with you.

They were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And also with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

Offertory Hymn

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing.

Now is the triumph of our King.

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of Life is ris'n for ay:

bring flowers of song to strew his way;

let all mankind rejoice and say:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory

that Love, that Life, which cannot die,

and sing with hearts uplifted high:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,

and sing today with one accord

the life laid down, the life restored:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cyril Alington 1872-1955

Tune: Vulpius

The Thanksgiving

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.

**We take this bread,
we take this wine
to follow Christ's example
and obey his command.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, with Easter joy we offer you the sacrifice
by which your Church is reborn and nourished,
through Christ our 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 our thanks and praise.

True and living God, the source of life for all creation,
you have made us in your own image.
Always and everywhere we give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is the true Paschal Lamb who was offered for us
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he destroyed death,
and by his resurrection
he has restored to us eternal life.

Therefore, with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your glorious name:

*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.*

Please remain STANDING if you are able

Blessed are you, almighty God,
because on the night he was betrayed
the Lord Jesus took bread,
and when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

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;
when he had given you thanks
he gave to them and said,

Drink this, all of you;
this cup is the new covenant in my blood
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins:
do this as often as you drink it
in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff begins with an organ introduction (labeled 'Organ intro.') and then a choir part. The lyrics are: 'Christ has died. Christ has died. Chri-st is ris-en. Chri-st is ris-en.' The second staff continues the choir part with the lyrics: 'Christ will come in glo-ry. Christ will come in glo-ry.' The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and repeat signs.

Choir

Organ intro.

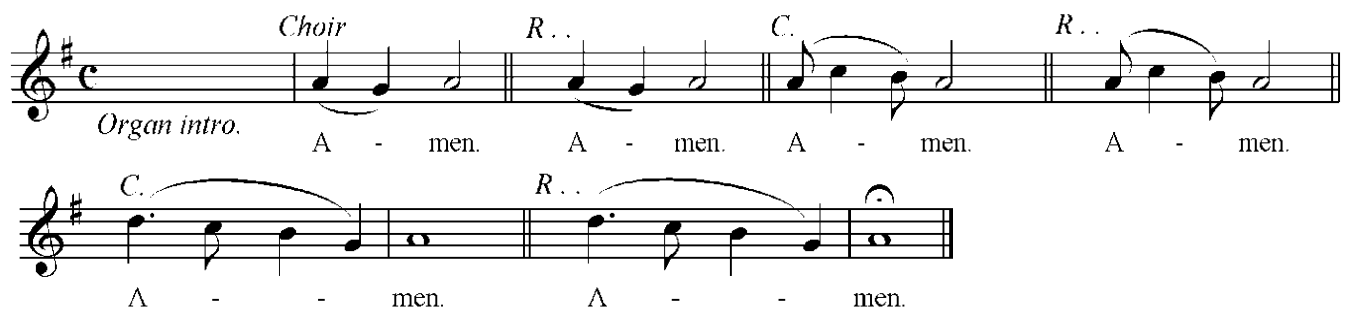
Christ has died. Christ has died. Chri-st is ris-en. Chri-st is ris-en.

Christ will come in glo-ry. Christ will come in glo-ry.

Therefore, loving God,
recalling now the sacrifice of Christ your Son
once for all upon the cross
and the triumph of his resurrection,
we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son
and be filled with his life and goodness.
Unite us in Christ and give us your peace
that we may do your work and be his body in the world.

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



Silence

The Lord's Prayer

Raised again with Christ in the power of the Spirit, we 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.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Bishop breaks the bread
We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body
for we all share in one bread.

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.

Plainsong

The Invitation to Holy Communion:
Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Alleluia! Let us keep the feast.

Anyone who is baptised (Christened)
is welcome to receive Communion in the Cathedral tonight.
When you come to receive, hold out your hands and you will be given bread.
Then move to the side to receive the Chalice.
If you would like a blessing instead,
please indicate this by holding your service book in your hands..
If you are not yet baptised, please speak to us.
We would love to welcome you into the family of the Church.

During Communion the Cathedral Choir sings the Motet:

Christ is now risen again
from his death and all his pain;
therefore will we merry be,
and rejoice with him gladly! Alleluia!

Since he is risen indeed
let us love him with all speed;
therefore glad now will we be,
and rejoice in him only. Alleluia!

Words: Early medieval hymn trans. Miles Coverdale 1488 - 1569
Music: 11th century melody arr. Alan Wilson b. 1947

Post Communion Hymn

During the Hymn Paschal Candles from other Churches represented at the service are brought forward and lit from the Cathedral Paschal Candle

I will sing the Lord's high triumph
Ruling earth and sky and sea;
God, my strength, my song, my glory,
My salvation now is he.
Through the waters, through the waters,
God has brought us liberty.

Who is like the God of Israel,
Faithful, holy, throned above?
Stretching out the arm of anger,
Yet he guides us by his love,
To our homeland, to our homeland,
God will see us safely move.

Praise our God, who in the thunder
Led a nation through the sea;
Praise the One whose blood released us
From our deeper slavery.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Christ is risen: we are free!

*Christopher Idle (b.1938)
Based on Exodus 15
Tune: St Helen*

The Post Communion

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.

Living God, 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;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

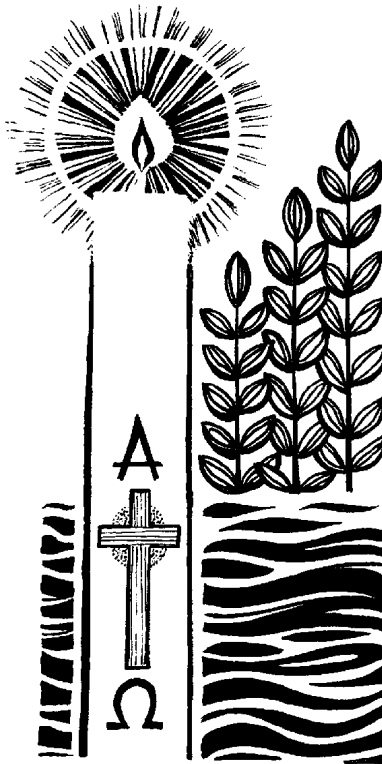
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Bishop gives the blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Paschal Candles from Visiting Churches lead the procession out, followed by the Cathedral Choir, Visiting Clergy and then the Altar Party.



An Order for the Holy Eucharist 2004, material from which is used in this service is copyright © Church in Wales Publications 2004.

CCL (Church Copyright Licence) 961722

MRL (Music Reproduction Licence) 961739