

**THE EASTER VIGIL  
IN THE HOLY NIGHT  
HOLY SATURDAY**



**ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN  
ST ALBANS  
2021**

*In line with the current guidelines there is no Easter Fire. The Easter Candle is lit following the greeting and introduction. The Easter proclamation or Exsultet is then sung.*

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**            Genesis 1:1, 26-31

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth'.

God created man in the image of himself,  
In the image of God he created him,  
Male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be master of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth'. God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food'. And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

### **Response to the Reading**

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,  
And renew the face of the earth

### **Prayer**

## Second Reading

Exodus 14:15 – 15:1

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord’.

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to the their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and of cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. ‘Let us flee from the Israelites’, the Egyptians cried, ‘the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!’. ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea’, the Lord said to Moses ‘that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen’. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh’s whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith

in the Lord and in Moses his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

### **Response to the Reading**

*The response to the reading is sung by the cantor*

#### **Prayer**

**Third Reading**      Ezekiel 36: 16-17a, 18-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘Son of man, the members of the House of Israel used to live in their own land, but they defiled it by their conduct and actions. I then discharged my fury at them because of the blood they shed in their land and the idols with which they defiled it. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them in foreign countries. I sentenced them as their conduct and actions deserved. And now they have profaned my holy name among the nations where they have gone., so that people say of them, “These are the people of the Lord; they have been exiled from his land”. But I have been concerned about my holy name, which the House of Israel has profaned among the nations where they have gone. And so, say to the House of Israel, “The Lord says this: I am not doing this for my sake, House of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I mean to display the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them. And the nations will learn that I am the Lord - it is the Lord who speaks - when I display my holiness for your sake before their eyes. Then I am going to take you from among the nations and gather you together from all the foreign countries, and bring you home to your own land. I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols. I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you, and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances. You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors. You shall be my people and I will be your God.” ’

### **Response to the Reading**

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
So my soul is yearning for you, my God.

#### **Prayer**

## Gloria

*Sung by the cantor*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.	<i>Glory to God in the highest</i>
Et in terra pax hominibus	<i>And on earth peace to people of</i>
Bonae voluntatis.	<i>good will.</i>
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.	<i>We praise You. We bless You.</i>
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.	<i>We adore You. We glorify You.</i>
Gratias Agimus tibi	<i>We give you thanks</i>
Propter magnam gloriam tuam	<i>For your great glory,</i>
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,	<i>Lord God, heavenly King,</i>
Deus Pater omnipotens.	<i>O God, Almighty Father.</i>
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.	<i>Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son.</i>
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,	<i>Lord God, Lamb of God,</i>
Filius Patris.	<i>Son of the Father.</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi	<i>You take away the sin of the world</i>
Miserere nobis.	<i>Have mercy on us;</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi	<i>You take away the sin of the world,</i>
suscipe deprecationem nostram.	<i>receive our prayer;</i>
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,	<i>You are seated at the right hand of the Fa-</i>
miserere nobis.	<i>ther, have mercy on us.</i>
Quoniam tu solus sanctus,	<i>For you alone are the Holy One,</i>
Tu solus Dominus, tu solus latissimus,	<i>You alone are the Lord, You alone are the</i>
Jesu Christe.	<i>Most High, Jesus Christ,</i>
Cum Sancto Spiritu, in Gloria Dei	<i>With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God</i>
Patris.	<i>the Father.</i>
Amen.	<i>Amen.</i>

## Opening Prayer

### Epistle

Romans 6: 3-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified

with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God: and in that way, you too much consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

*Sung by the cantor*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
For his love has no end.  
Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

*Sung by the cantor*

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

*Sung by the cantor*

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

*Sung by the cantor*

**Gospel**      Mark 16: 1-7

When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone - which was very big - had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you'.

**Homily**

**Blessing of Baptismal Water**

**Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Preparation of the Gifts**

*Voluntary*

**Holy Holy**

*Sung by the Cantor*

**Memorial Acclamation**

*Sung by the Cantor*

**COMMUNION RITE**

**Lamb of God**

*Sung by the Cantor*

## Concluding Prayer

### Blessing

Priest           The Lord be with you.  
**People**           And with your spirit.

Deacon           Bow down for the blessing

Priest           May almighty God bless you  
                  through today's Easter Solemnity  
                  and, in his compassion,  
                  defend you from every assault of sin.  
**People**           Amen.

Priest           And may he, who restores you to eternal life  
                  in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten,  
                  endow you with the prize of immortality.  
**People**           Amen.

                  Now that the days of the Lord's Passion  
                  have drawn to a close,  
                  may we who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast  
                  come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit,  
                  to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.  
**People**           Amen.

Priest           And the blessing of almighty God,  
                  the Father, and the Son,+ and the Holy Spirit,  
                  come down on you and remain with you for ever.  
**People**           Amen.

Priest           Go in peace. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
**People**           Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*As is our current practice the distribution of Holy Communion will take place at the end of the Easter Vigil. Once you have received Holy Communion please make your way out of the Church*

### **Hymn during distribution of Holy Communion**

Jesus Christ is Risen today, Alleluia  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia  
suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia

Hymns of praise then let us sing  
unto Christ our Heavenly King  
who endured the Cross and Grave  
sinners to redeem and save.

But the pains that he endured  
our salvation have procured.  
now above the sky He's King  
where the angels ever sing.

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With our thanks for your Easter greetings and gifts  
and wishing you a Happy Easter

Fr Michael, Fr Julian & Deacon Steve





