

THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT



HOLY SATURDAY ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN ST ALBANS 2026

This evening's liturgy begins outside the Church with the blessing of the Easter Fire and preparation and lighting of the Paschal Candle. As the Paschal Candle is processed into Church the following responsory is sung three times.

The Light of Christ. R/Thanks be to God

The Easter Proclamation

After the Second responsory has been sung the light from the Paschal Candle will be shared as people take their seats. After the final responsory the Paschal Candle is placed in its stand. The Paschal Candle is incensed and the Easter Proclamation, the Exsultet, is sung.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Following a brief instruction from the priest the Liturgy of the Word begins.

First Reading Genesis (1:1-2:2) Parish Mass Book p. 221

Response to the First Reading
R/ Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe! **R/**

You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age to age.
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than the mountains. **R/**

You make springs gush forth in the valleys:
they flow in between the hills.
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
from the branches they sing their song. **R/**

From your dwelling you water the hills;
earth drinks its fill of your gift.
You make the grass grow for the cattle
and the plants to serve man's needs. **R/**

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/**

Prayer

Second Reading Exodus (14:15-15:1) Parish Mass Book p.225.

Response to the Second Reading

1. Sing to God a song of triumph;
to God's name a victory sing.
Horse and rider he has conquered;
our safe path made sea again.
Sing a psalm to God of glory,
sing to God our strength, our song.
praise the Lord of our salvation;
praise our God for evermore.

2. By the Lord, a mighty warrior,
Pharaoh's soldiers are no more.
By one wave an army slaughtered;
fighting men thrown like stones.
Your right hand, its power is glorious;
your right hand has crushed the foe.
Sing to God a song of triumph;
He has ransomed Israel.

3. You have led us out of Egypt;
passing dry shod through the sea.
Lead us to your holy mountain;
bring your people home at last:
to a land of milk and honey,
to a land your hand has made.
Sing to God a song of triumph:
God will reign for evermore.

Prayer

Third Reading Isaiah (55:1-11) Parish Mass Book p.228.

Response to the Third Reading

1. O let all who thirst,
let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord:
without money, without price.
Why should you pay the price,
except for the Lord?

2. And let all who seek,
let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord:
without money, without strife.
Why should you spend your life,
except for the Lord?

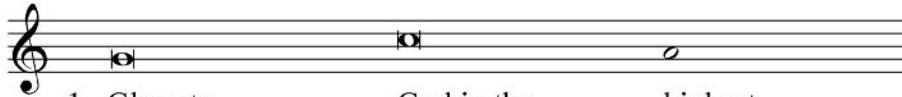
3. And let all who toil,
let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary,
let them come to the Lord:
all who labour, without rest.
How can your soul find rest,
except for the Lord?

4. And let all the poor,
let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden,
bring them all to the Lord:
bring the children without might
Easy the load and light:
come to the Lord.

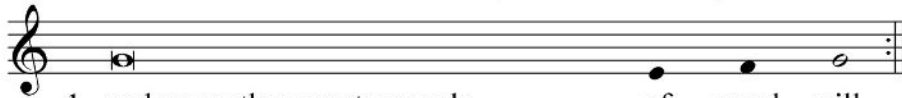
Prayer

If you have not already done so, please extinguish your candle

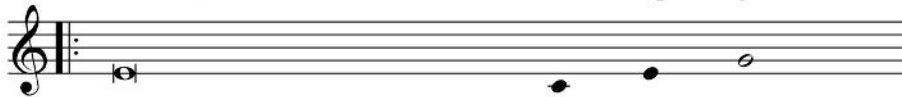
Gloria



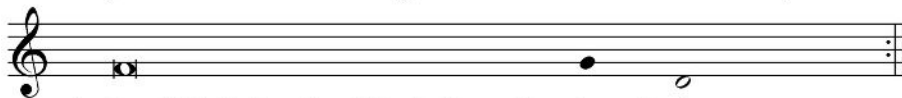
1. Glory to God in the highest,
2. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
3. Lord God, heavenly King,



1. and on earth peace to people of good will.
2. we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,
3. O God, almighty Father.



4. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
5. you take away the sins of the world,
6. you take away the sins of the world,
7. you are seated at the right hand of the Father,



4. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
5. have mercy on us;
6. receive our prayer;
7. have mercy on us.



8. For you alone are the Holy One,
9. you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
10. Amen, men,



8. you alone are the Lord,
9. with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
10. Amen.

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Opening Prayer

Epistle Romans (6: 3-11) Parish Mass Book p. 233.

Solemn Alleluia R/Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
'His mercy endures for ever.' **R/**

The Lord's right hand is exalted.
The Lord's right hand has done mighty deeds.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount the deeds of the Lord. **R/**

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes. **R/**

Gospel Mathew (28:1-10) Parish Mass Book p.234

Homily

LITURGY OF BAPTISM, RECEPTION & CONFIRMATION

At this evening's vigil two adults will be baptised and four baptised Christians will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Alongside these a further three adults will be confirmed. After the candidates for baptism are called forward we stand for the Litany of Saints.

Litany of the Saints

Lord, have mercy	R/Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy	R/Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy	R/Lord, have mercy.
Holy Mary, holy Mother of God; holy Virgin of Virgins: Pray, pray for us	R/Pray, pray for us.
St Michael, St Raphael and all you Angels of God: Pray, pray for us.	R/Pray, pray for us.

All you Saints of God, by your life and death you proclaimed Jesus Christ as the Light of the World.

All you Saints of God, pray for us. **R/All you Saints of God, pray for us.**

St John the Baptist, St Joseph, St Peter & St Paul, St Andrew, St John, St Jude Thaddeus, St Mary Magdalene.

All you Apostles and Saints, companions of the Lord,

Pray, pray for us. **R/Pray, pray for us.**

All you Saints of God, by your life and death you proclaimed Jesus Christ as the Light of the World.

All you Saints of God, pray for us. **R/All you Saints of God, pray for us.**

St Stephen, St Ignatius, St Lawrence, St Alban, St Perpetua & St Felicity, St Agnes,

Pray, pray for us. **R/Pray, pray for us.**

All you Saints of God, by your life and death you proclaimed Jesus Christ as the Light of the World.

All you Saints of God, pray for us. **R/All you Saints of God, pray for us.**

St Gregory, St Augustine, St Athanasius, St Basil, St Martin, St Benedict, St Adrian of Canterbury, St Francis and St Dominic, St Francis Xavier, St John Vianney, St Catherine, St Theresa, St Eithne, St Hilda of Whitby, St Margaret of Cortona,

All you founders and Saints, upbuilding the Church, Faithful servants of Christ,

Pray, pray for us. **R/Pray, pray for us.**

All you Saints of God, by your life and death you proclaimed Jesus Christ as the Light of the World.

All you Saints of God, pray for us. **R/All you Saints of God, pray for us.**

Lord, be merciful!

Lord save your people.

From all evil.

From every sin,

From everlasting death,

By your coming as man,

By your death and rising to new life,⁶

By your gift of the Holy Spirit,

R/Lord, save your people.

R/Lord, save your people.

R/Lord, save your people.

R/Lord, save your people.

R/ Lord, save your people.

R/Lord, save your people.

R/Lord, save your people.

Be merciful to us sinners,
Give new life to these chosen
ones by the grace of baptism.
Jesus, Son of the living God.
Christ, hear us
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

R/Lord, hear our prayer

R/Lord, hear our prayer

R/Lord, hear our prayer

R/Christ, hear us.

R/Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Blessing of Water

Following the litany the water to be used for baptism is blessed. At the end of the blessing, once the congregation have said 'Amen' the following acclamation is said:

**Springs of water, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him above all for ever.**

Following the blessing of water those to be baptised will be asked to renounce sin and then anointed with the Oil of Catechumens. Having professed their faith they are then baptised. The baptised are then clothed in a baptismal garment and presented with a candle lit from the Easter Candle.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Everyone's candle is now lit from the Easter Candle. The entire congregation, along with those to be received into the church, renew their baptismal promises.

Do you reject Satan?

R/I do.

And all his works?

R/I do.

And all his empty promises?

R/I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?

R/I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead, and is
seated at the right hand of the Father?

R/I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?

R/I do.

Sprinkling with Holy Water

As the clergy process around the church sprinkling the congregation with the newly blessed Easter Water the following refrain is sung.

Come, flowing water, pure and clear,
God's Holy Spirit bringing near,
let us praise him, alleluia!
Join each to each in peace and love,
with life you give us from above.
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Celebration of Reception

The candidates for reception into the church are now called forward and addressed by the priest. Having professed their belief in all that the Catholic Church believes, teaches and proclaims to be revealed by God, the priest receives them into the Catholic Church.

Rite of Confirmation

Those newly baptised and those received into the Church are now confirmed alongside three adult Catholics who have been preparing for Confirmation. The Rite of Confirmation includes the laying on of Hands, the prayer invoking the gift of God's Holy Spirit, and the anointing with the Oil of Chrism.

Prayer of the Faithful

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

This evening the gifts are brought to the altar by those newly baptised, received and confirmed. Your contribution to this evening's collection goes towards the monthly allowance received by the priests of the parish.

Da pacem cordium (repeat)
Give us peace in our hearts

Holy Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Holy Lord, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is he who comes in the name,
who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and Drink this Cup,
when we eat this Bread and Drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
we proclaim your Death until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi

R/Miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi

R/Miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi

R/Dona nobis pacem.

Distribution of Holy Communion

1. God, at creation's dawn,
over a world unborn,
your Spirit soared.

By word and water deign
that this same Spirit reign
in those now born again,
through Christ our Lord.

2. We, who in Adam fell,
are, as the Scriptures tell,
saved and restored.

For, when these rites are done,
dying we are made one,
rising we overcome,
with Christ our Lord.

3. Hear us, your Church, rejoice,
singing with grateful voice,
Father adored;
Telling our faith anew,
Greeting with welcome true
Children new born to you,
in Christ our Lord.

II

Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!
Cantate Domino, Alleluia!

All you heavens bless the Lord, *Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!*
stars of the heavens bless the Lord. *Cantate Domino, Alleluia!*

Sun and moon bless the Lord, *Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!*
and you night and day bless the Lord. *Cantate Domino, Alleluia!*

Frost and cold bless the Lord, *Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!*
ice and snow bless the Lord. *Cantate Domino, Alleluia!*

Fire and heat bless the Lord, *Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!*
and you light and darkness bless the Lord. *Cantate Domino, Alleluia!*

Spirits and souls of the just bless the Lord, *Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!*
Saints and the humble hearted bless the Lord. *Cantate Domino, Alleluia!*

Give thanks to the Lord for God is good, *Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!*
For God's love has no end. *Cantate Domino, Alleluia!*

The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my song, *Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!*
He has been my Saviour, *Cantate Domino, Alleluia!*

I shall not die, I shall live, *Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!*
I shall live and recount his deeds! *Cantate Domino, Alleluia!*

Concluding Prayer

Blessing

Bishop Peace be with you. **R/And with your spirit.**

Deacon Bow down for the blessing

- Bishop May almighty God bless you through today's
Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion,
defend you from every assault of sin. **R/Amen.**
- Bishop And may he, who restores you to eternal life
in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten,
endow you with the prize of immortality. **R/Amen.**
- Bishop 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. **R/Amen.**
- Bishop 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. **R/Amen.**
- Deacon Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
Alleluia, Alleluia. **R/Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Recessional Hymn

This is the night of new beginnings.
This is the night when heaven meets earth.
This is the night filled with God's glory,
Promise of our new birth!

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

This is the night Christ our redeemer
rose from the grave triumphant and free,
leaving the tomb of evil and darkness,
empty for all to see.

Sing of the hope deeper than dying.
Sing of the pow'r stronger than death.
Sing of the love endless as heaven,
Dawning throughout the earth.

Into this world morning is breaking.
All of God's people lift up your voice.
Cry out with joy, tell out the story,
All of the earth rejoice.

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