

## **Easter Eve – Evening Prayer**

Saturday April 3, 2021

The light of Christ;  
**Thanks be to God!**

*Candles are now lit in our homes*

Give gentle praise this night,  
and with the heavenly chorus sing.  
Jesus Christ, our light, is risen,  
and in his rising death no longer has  
the final word.

Though we live in anxious times, and though  
sickness and death claim many in  
our present world,  
death has no final claim.

Give praise, O people of God.  
The light of the risen Saviour rests upon you.

### The Exsultet\*

The Lord is here.  
**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God.  
**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is right that with hearts and minds and voices  
we should praise you, the eternal God, and your  
First-born, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**For Christ is the true Passover lamb who has  
set your people free.**

This is the night when you saved the children of  
Israel from their slavery in Egypt and led them  
through the Red Sea on dry land.

**This is the night, when the pillar of fire  
brought light to your wandering people.**

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*\*The Exsultet is a text from as early as the 5th Century, traditionally sung by a deacon at the Vigil services on Easter Eve. The version we use tonight is adapted for our times from the translation in the New Zealand Prayer Book.*

This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the  
chains of death and rose from the grave.

**Holy God, in the setting of the sun this night,  
accept our evening sacrifice of praise, your  
peoples' offering.**

Bless these candles in our homes, a flame divided  
but undimmed, flickering lights that glow to your  
honour, O God, and signify our resilient hope that  
light overcomes darkness.

**May these small flames mingle with the lights  
of heaven, as we set them in our windows to  
lighten the darkness of this night.**

May you bless us gently with hope and love on  
this night in which we tell the deepest story of  
new life and new light. **Amen.**

### **The Proclamation of the Easter Gospel**

John 20:1-18

Reflection – Jamie Howison

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace  
(joy, light), You alone O God are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace  
(joy, light), alleluia.*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us  
prayer as our Saviour Christ has taught us,

**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. 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.**

Canticle of the First-Born - Colossians 1.15–20

+Christ is the image of the unseen God,  
the first-born of all creation,  
for in him were all things made,  
in heaven and on earth.

**Through him and for him were all things  
made, before all he exists,  
holds all things in one.**

The Church is his body, and he is its head.  
He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead;  
in all things he alone is supreme.

**God made all his fullness to dwell in him,  
to reconcile through him all creation to  
himself, everything on earth and everything in  
heaven, all gathered into peace by his death on  
the cross.**

**Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one  
God, as it was in the beginning is now and will  
be forever. Amen.**

*O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,  
in you the Father's glory shone.  
Immortal, holy, blest is he,  
and blest are you, his holy Son.*

*Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,  
the lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God  
who dwells in the eternal light.*

*Worthy are you of endless praise,  
O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;  
wherefore you are through all the earth  
and in the highest heaven adored.  
(Tune: Tallis's Canon)*

Lord of life and power,  
through the mighty resurrection of your Son,  
you have overcome the old order of sin and death  
and have made all things new in him.  
May we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
reign with him in glory,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God, Alleluia!**

Please do join us for a reception time on Zoom immediately following the end of this liturgy

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84924228817>

+1 204 272 7920 Canada