

“The Good Vigil”

What you will need:

This booklet

Scripture Sheets (At least three, including especially Scripture D and The Gospel)

A pillar candle (or a fireplace, or a campfire)

A candle lighter or box of matches

Bells, chimes, pots and pans (basically anything with which to make a raucous, joyful noise)

What you *don't* need:

A theology degree

Perfect diction

Concerning the Service

This Service Booklet was developed as an open-and-go resource for families and small groups to use in times and places which preclude community celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection. It also includes a Thanksgiving over Food at its conclusion should families wish to conclude the Vigil with a meal. The Good Vigil may be observed any time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Morning. Families are encouraged to delegate active roles to as many individuals as possible.

Throughout the service, responses are in ***bold italics***. Directions are in *italics*.

During the Service of Lessons, at least two Scriptures and their corresponding Collects, along with the Gospel, should be read. They should include Scripture D.

The Service should begin in darkness.

The Service of Light

In the darkness, a candle (or fire) is lit; after which the Celebrant says:

On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus 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, by hearing his Word and sharing in Fellowship, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Grant that in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant, or another appointed person, continues with The Exsultet:

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,
bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and humanity is reconciled to God.

All gathered continue with the Phos hilaron:

O gracious Light,

Pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

And our eyes behold the vesper light,

We sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Son of God, O Giver of life,

And to be glorified through all the worlds.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Celebrant continues:

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved God's people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

At least two scriptures from the Scripture Pack, one of which should be Scripture D (Exodus 14:10-15:1), are read, followed by the Gospel. Scripture Sheets should be read in alphabetical order, even if letters are skipped. The responsory psalms or canticles, and collects, are included on the Scripture Sheets. After the Gospel is read, the service continues.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

The Celebrant first addresses the people:

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy catholic Church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Prayers of the People

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, for our Bishop (s) _____; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for those who care for others; for first responders, doctors, and nurses; for social workers; for service, retail, and delivery workers; Pray for those who work for the common good.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for those who are in positions of authority; for the President of the United States, Donald Trump; for the Governor of _____, _____; for all legislators and judges; for those who influence public opinion; for voters. Pray for our Country.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the departed, and for those who mourn. Pray for those who have died.

Silence.

Praise God for those in every generation whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence.

The Celebrant concludes with the following:

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

At this point, the service continues as follows or, if a meal is to follow, continues on page 7.

The celebrant says:

And now, as our Savior has taught us, we are bold to pray:

***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,
And the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.***

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

All gathered now pray:

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

In Conclusion, the Celebrant says:

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Here it would be appropriate to add a hymn.

If the service is to be followed with a meal, it concludes with the following:

The celebrant says:

And now, as our Savior has taught us, we are bold to pray:

***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,
And the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.***

The celebrant continues:

Bless, O Lord, your gifts for our use, and us to your service; for Christ's sake. ***Amen.***

The meal is then shared. At its conclusion, the Celebrant or another appointed person prays:
Grant, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this night with our outward ears may, through your grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***