

A Service of the Word for Easter Day: Merton Priory Team Ministry

The Service of Light

Christ yesterday and today,

All the beginning and the end,

Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;

**All to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever. Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life.
Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God.
As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done,
we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever.

The candle is lit as we say

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The minister carrying the Candle raises it and says or sings

The light of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Vivaldi: Gloria in excelsis

The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Gloria in Excelsis**

Introduction

The Collect

Let us pray that we may walk the risen life of Christ in glory.

Silence is kept.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

1:1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,

1:2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

1:4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

1:5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Sermon/talk about the light

Marking the Easter Candle

A minister brings the Easter Candle to the president, who traces the cross and then the Greek letter *Alpha* (Α) above and the Greek letter *Omega* (Ω) below it.

*As the vertical of the cross is traced the president says
Christ, yesterday and today,*

*As the horizontal is traced the president says
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.
All Amen.

The Exsultet

All Glory to you, O Lord.
(or)

All The Lord reigns.
Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!
Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!
Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

The Lord be with you

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
**All He has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead.**
God has claimed us as his own.
**All He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.