

The Easter Vigil

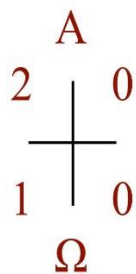
FIRST PART: THE SOLEMN BEGINNING OF THE VIGIL OR LUCERNARIUM

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),
on this most sacred night,
in which our Lord Jesus Christ
passed over from death to life,
the Church calls upon her sons and daughters,
scattered throughout the world,
to come together to watch and pray.
-If we keep the memorial
of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way,
listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries,
then we shall have the sure hope
of sharing his triumph over death
and living with him in God.

1. Christ yesterday and today (*he cuts a vertical line*);
2. the Beginning and the End (*he cuts a horizontal line*);
3. the Alpha (*he cuts the letter Alpha above the vertical line*);
4. and the Omega (*he cuts the letter Omega below the vertical line*).
5. All time belongs to him (*he cuts the first numeral of the current year in the upper left corner of the cross*);



6. and all the ages (*he cuts the second numeral of the current year in the upper right corner of the cross*).
7. To him be glory and power (*he cuts the third numeral of the current year in the lower left corner of the cross*);
8. through every age and for ever. Amen (*he cuts the fourth numeral of the current year in the lower right corner of the cross*).
12. When the cutting of the cross and of the other signs has been completed, the Priest may insert five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross, meanwhile saying:
 1. By his holy
 2. and glorious wounds,
 3. may Christ the Lord

4. guard us
5. and protect us. Amen.

1

4 2 5

3

14. The Priest lights the paschal candle, saying:

May the light of Christ rising in glory
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Easter Proclamation

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

(V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.)

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just,
with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.
O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night
of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,

dazzling is the night for me,
and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar,
which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,
a fire into many flames divided,
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,
for it is fed by melting wax,
drawn out by mother bees
to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honor of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Second Part

The Liturgy of the Word

Dear brothers and sisters,
now that we have begun our solemn Vigil,
let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God.
Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people
and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer.
Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation
by the fullness of redemption.

A reading from the book of Genesis 1:1—2:2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night.' Evening came and morning came: the first day.

God said, 'Let there be vault in the waters, to divide the water in two.' And so it was. God made the vault, and it divided the waters above the vault from the waters under the vault. God called vault 'heaven'. Evening came and morning came: the second day.

God said, 'Let the waters under the heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.' And so it was. God called the dry land 'the earth' and the mass of the waters 'seas', and God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth.' And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the third day.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years, let them be lights in the vaults of heaven to shine on the earth.' And so it was. God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth, to govern the day and the night and to divide the light from darkness. God saw that it was good. Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.

God said, 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth within the vault of heaven.' And so it was. God created great sea-serpents and kind of living creature with which the waters teem, and every kind of winged creature. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply upon the earth.' Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.

God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles and every kind of wild beast.' And so it was. God made every kind of wild beast, every kind of cattle, and every kind of land reptile. God saw that it was good.

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 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 masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all the 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 the 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. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

Responsorial Psalm

103:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35 R/cf.v.30

**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/

R. Send forth your Spirit O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

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

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

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

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. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray

Almighty ever-living God,
who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works,
may those you have redeemed understand
that there exists nothing more marvelous
than the world's creation in the beginning
except that, at the end of the ages,
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

A reading from the book of 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.’

The angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to 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 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 drew 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:

Responsorial Psalm

R. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.

This is my God and I extol him,

my father's God and I give him praise.

R. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone.

R. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,
Your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe.

R. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.

R. I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

Let us pray

O God, whose ancient wonders
remain undimmed in splendor even in our day,
for what you once bestowed on a single people,
freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution
by the power of your right hand
now you bring about as the salvation of the nations
through the waters of rebirth,
grant, we pray, that the whole world
may become children of Abraham
and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: R. Amen.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 54:5-14

Thus says the Lord:

Now your creator will be your husband,
his name, the Lord of hosts;
your redeemer will be the Holy One of Israel,

he is called the God of the whole earth.
Yes, like a forsaken wife, distressed in spirit,
The Lord calls you back.
Does a man cast off the wife of his youth?
says your God.

I did forsake you for a brief moment,
but with great love I will take you back.
In excess of anger, for a moment
I hid my face from you.
But with everlasting love I have taken pity on you,
says the Lord, your redeemer.

I am now as I was in the days of Noah,
when I swore that Noah's waters
should never flood the world again.
So now I swear concerning my anger with you,
and the threats I made against you;

For the mountains may depart
the hills be shaken,
but my love for you will never leave you
and my covenant of peace with you will never be shaken,
says the Lord who takes pity on you.

Unhappy creature, storm-tossed, disconsolate,
see, I will set your stones on carbuncles
and your foundations on sapphires.
I will make rubies your battlements,
your gates crystal,
and your entire wall precious stones.
Your sons will all be taught by the Lord.
The prosperity of your sons will be great.
You will be founded on integrity;
remote from oppression, you will have nothing to fear;
remote from terror, it will not approach you.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.

His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.

At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

The Lord listens and had pity.

The Lord came to my help.

For me you have changed my mourning into dancing,

O Lord, my God, I will thank you for ever.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Let us pray

Almighty ever-living God,
surpass, for the honor of your name,
what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of their faith,
and through sacred adoption increase the children of your promise,
so that what the Saints of old never doubted would come to pass
your Church may now see in great part fulfilled.

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

A reading from the Prophet Baruch 3:9-15, 32(4:4)

Listen, Israel, to commandments that bring life;
hear, and learn what knowledge means.

Why, Israel, why are you in the country of your enemies,
growing older and older in an alien land,
sharing defilement with the dead,
reckoned with those who go to Sheol?

Because you have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

Had you walked in the way of God,
you would have lived in peace for ever.

Learn where knowledge is, where strength,

where understanding, and so learn
where length of days is, where life,
where the light of the eyes and where peace.
But who has found out where she lives,
who has entered her treasure house?

But the one who knows all knows her,
he has grasped her with her own intellect,
he has set the earth firm for ever
and filled it with four-footed beasts,
he sends the light - it goes,
he recalls it - and trembling it obeys;
the stars shine joyfully at their set times:
when he calls them, they answer, 'Here we are!'
they gladly shine for their creator.
It is he who is our God,
no other can compare with him.
he has grasped the whole way of knowledge,
and confided it to his servant Jacob,
to Israel, his well beloved;
so causing her to appear on earth
and move among men.

This is the book of the commandments of God,
the law that stands for ever;
those who keep her live,
those who desert her die.
Turn back, Jacob, seize her,
in her radiance make your way to light:
do not yield your glory to another,
your privilege to a people not your own.
Israel, blessed are we:
what pleases God has been revealed to us.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

19:8, 9, 10, 11

R. You have the message of eternal life, O Lord.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul;
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,

it gives wisdom to the simple.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

R. You have the message of eternal life, O Lord.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

R. You have the message of eternal life, O Lord.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb.

R. You have the message of eternal life, O Lord.

Let us pray

O God, who constantly increase your Church
by your call to the nations,
graciously grant
to those you wash clean in the waters of Baptism
the assurance of your unfailing protection.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, Almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us Pray

Let us pray.
O God, who make this most sacred night radiant
with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection,
stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption,
so that, renewed in body and mind,
we may render you undivided service.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the letter to *Romans* 6:3-11

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized in his death; in other words, when we were baptized 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 in new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realize that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and 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 have no power over him anymore. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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.'

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, and toward dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake' for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid' I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him.' Now, I have told you. Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb, and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings' he said. And the women came upto him and falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

THIRD PART: BAPTISMAL LITURGY

**Dearly beloved,
with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers
let us be united with the Lord.
So that, as we renew our baptismal vows,
the almighty Father may bestow on us
all his merciful help.**

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Holy Mary, Mother of God

Pray for us.

Saint Michael

Pray for us.

Holy angels of God

Pray for us.

Saint John the Baptist

Pray for us.

Saint Joseph

Pray for us.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul

Pray for us.

Saint Andrew

Pray for us.

Saint John

Pray for us.

Saint Mary Magdalene

Pray for us.

Saint Stephen

Pray for us.

Saint Ignatius

Pray for us.

Saint Lawrence

Pray for us.

Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity

Pray for us.

Saint Agnes

Pray for us.

Saint Gregory

Pray for us.

Saint Augustine

Pray for us.

Saint Athanasius

Pray for us.

Saint Basil

Pray for us.

Saint Martin

Pray for us.

Saint Benedict

Pray for us.

Saint Francis and Saint Dominic

Pray for us.

Saint Francis Xavier

Pray for us.

St John Vianney

Pray for us.

Saint Catherine

Pray for us.

Saint Teresa

Pray for us.

Saint George

Pray for us.

All holy men and women

Pray for us.

Lord, be merciful

Pray for us.

From all evil

Pray for us.

From every sin

Pray for us.

From everlasting death

Pray for us.

By your Incarnation

Pray for us.

By your Death and Resurrection

Pray for us.

By your outpouring of the Holy Spirit
Pray for us.
Be merciful to us sinners.
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

Priest: Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Priest: And all his works?

All: I do.

Priest: And all his empty show?

All: I do.

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

All: I do.

Priest: 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?

All: I do.

Priest: 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?

All: I do.

Priest concludes:

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord,
for eternal life.

All: Amen.