

Great Vigil of Easter

Suggestions and portions adapted by Dr. James Farwell

The Lighting of New Fire

Beloved in Christ: 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 linger in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord in which, by virtue of our baptism into his death, into the hope of his resurrection, we celebrate the New Life we have received by his Mercy, awaiting the time when we may gather again around your holy altar.

Let us pray.

O God, you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that 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.

Exsultet

Sing it or say all! - *except* the optional portion on page 286; and adapt the final stanza as follows:

Holy Father, accept our living sacrifice of this candle in your honor. May Christ, the light of the world, bring us healing. May Christ, your light in us, drive away darkness and fear. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find our faith ever burning, our love of mercy and justice ever afire – he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Or, see Lathrop and Ramshaw, “The Three Days at Home,” for an abbreviated Exsultet.

The Liturgy of the Word

Get creative! The Genesis narrative can be read by many voices. Find two dramatic voices to take the parts of the prophet and God in Ezekiel.

Then, Proclaim the Resurrection!:

Alleluia... etc.

Pray one of the Easter Collects.

After the Epistle and Gospel, follow the form on BCP 292-293 and renew baptismal vows

Have a time of prayer for all in need

Then conclude, perhaps with the other Easter Collect you did not use earlier, and then, as crafted by the Rev. Josephine Robertson and the Rev. Joseph Peters-Matthews

One Alleluia! Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us!

All **Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

One When we share our bread with one another

All **The Lamb of God will make us one.**