



The Church of St James the Greater
Leicester



EASTER EVE 2014

The Service of Light

*The congregation assemble in the darkened church in silence.
Stand as the choir enter and go to their place in the stalls.*

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

*Everyone **turns towards the back of the church**
as the unlit Paschal Candle is carried to the main door.*

CEREMONY OF THE NEW FIRE

The following prayer is said over the New Fire:

Eternal God, who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Easter Candle is marked with the sign of the Cross, with this prayer:

Christ yesterday and today,
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. **Amen**

The Candle is lit from the New Fire with this acclamation:

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

THE PEACE

... the peace of the risen Christ be always with you Alleluia, alleluia!

All **And also with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

All HYMN (tune Woodlands):

**Sing choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Around God's throne exult in harmony!
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Salute your king in glorious symphony!**

**Sing choirs on earth! Behold your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past; the day of life is here**

**Sing church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!
Your saviour lives: he's with you evermore!
Let all God's people shout the long Amen!.**

BLESSING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All sing **In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

VOLUNTARY

The Candle is raised, with this acclamation sung:

The light of Christ

All **Thanks be to God.**

The procession moves further into the building and stops.

The light of Christ

All **Thanks be to God.**

The procession continues to the top of the chancel steps

The light of Christ

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Easter Candle is placed in its stand.

THE EXSULTET (Easter Song of Praise) is sung.

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING

...for Christ the morning star has risen, never again to set,
and is alive and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

Candlelight is dispersed throughout the congregation in silence.

Sit READING Genesis 1.1 – 2.2

PSALM 104 Antiphon at the beginning and end

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

PRAYER

READING Exodus 14.15 – 15.1a

All sing HYMN 214 Guide me O thou great redeemer ...

PRAYER

READING Ezekiel 36.25 – 28

Choir ANTHEM The Strife is o'er – Ley

COLLECT FOR EASTER EVE

READING Romans 6.3 – 11

Stand

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL St Matthew 28.1 – 10

After this there is 'holy noise' from the organ!

*All the lights go on, **candles are carefully extinguished,***

Choir ANTHEM Since by man came death from *Messiah* – Handel

*The procession moves to the font and **everyone turns to the font***

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The president introduces the rite and then asks these questions:

Do you turn to Christ?

All **I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

All **I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

All **I renounce evil.**

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

... for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**