

Order of Service
St. Martin's Anglican Church
 1700th birthday, St. Martin of Tours (316-2016)



Holy Saturday Vigil, 26 Mar. 2016, 7:00 pm

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Rector – The Reverend John Organ
Assistant Priest – Rev. Joseph Varkey
Rector's Warden – Glenn Bloodworth
People's Warden – Mona Forrest
Organist & Choir Director – David Dawson
Lay Reader – Rebecca Veale
Head Server – Richard Rouse
Parish Secretary – Elsia Laking
Treasurer – Laura Macdonald
Envelope Secretary – Patricia Bethel
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Gathering of the Community
Service of Light – New Fire

The congregation gathers outside the front door.

In the darkness, fire is kindled. The celebrant may then greet the people and address them in these or similar words.

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries; we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

The celebrant may say the following prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Preparation of the Paschal Candle

A: After the blessing of the new fire, a lay person or one of the ministers brings the paschal candle to the celebrant, who cuts a cross in the wax and traces the Greek letter alpha above the cross, the letter omega below, and the numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross.

Meanwhile he/she may say,

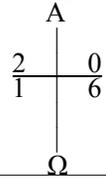
1. Christ yesterday and today (*as he/she traces the vertical arm of the cross*)
2. the beginning and the end (*the horizontal arm*)
3. Alpha (*alpha, above the cross*)
4. and Omega (*omega, below the cross*)

5 all time belongs to him (*the first numeral, in the upper left corner of the cross*)

6 and all the ages (*the second numeral in the upper right corner*)

7 to him be glory and power (*the third numeral in the lower left corner*)

8 through every age for ever. Amen. (*the last numeral in the lower right corner*)



B: When the cross and other marks have been made, the celebrant may insert five grains of incense into the candle. He/she does this in the form of a cross, saying,

1. By his holy
2. and glorious wounds
3. may Christ our Lord
4. guard us
5. and keep us. Amen.

C: The celebrant lights the candle from the new fire, saying,

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

The deacon (a priest if there is no deacon) takes the paschal candle, lifts it high, and sings,

Deacon: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Individual candles are lit

The church bell is rung

Procession into the church

The procession enters the church, led by the deacon with the paschal candle. At a suitable place the deacon lifts the candle high, and sings a second time,

Deacon: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

If candles have been distributed to the congregation, they may be lighted now or when the procession ends. The procession continues until the deacon arrives before the altar. Turning to face the people, the deacon sings a third time,

Deacon: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Deacon: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Deacon: It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!

This is our passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night when first you saved our forebears: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.

This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy. Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and we are reconciled with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Accept this Easter candle. May it always dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Gathering at Baptismal Font for Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith.

We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **AMEN**

Dear friends, through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life.

Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected 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?

All: 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 God 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 neighbour 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.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, respecting, sustaining and renewing the life of the earth?

I will, with God's help.

God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May he keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. **AMEN**

The Collect

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

All: Baptised into Christ's Death and Resurrection, Let us await in prayer and joyful expectation the Risen Christ.