



The Church of St James the Greater  
Leicester



## EASTER EVE

### 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

EXODUS CANTICLE *Antiphon at the beginning and end*

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

PRAYER

READING Ezekiel 36.25 – 28

*Choir* ANTHEM

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,*

*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 THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

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

*All* **Amen.**