

Easter Vigil

Northumbria Community 2021

Introduction

Aidan reading from 12th May by Lee Strobel

*(Fire lit, outdoors, whilst above is being read, ,
Singing of "Christ as a light" -short version*

Piercing the candle

*Christ behind us in all of our yesterdays.
Christ with us in our today.
Christ before us in all of our tomorrows,
Alpha and Omega, Christ, Lord of all!

*By the wounds and the blood of the Lamb,
may God guard and keep us. Amen.

(Four nails hammered into large white candle while saying:)

*Praise be to the blood of the Lamb
in His forgiving power.

*Praise be to the blood of the Lamb
in His cleansing power.

*praise be to the blood of the Lamb
in His saving power.

*Praise be to the blood of the Lamb
in His releasing power.

*Praise be to the blood of the Lamb
in His victorious power.

*By the wounds and the blood of the Lamb,
may God guard and keep us. Amen.

*(The Easter candle is lit from the fire, then the other candles lit by each one
and held up as they read "Christ as a light")*

*Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.

*Christ under me; Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.

*This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

*Be in the heart of each to who I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

*This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

*Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.

*Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Allelujah!

Exsultet

*Leap and spin, you powers of heaven.
Burst into explosive songs of joy,
all you companies of angels.
Let the throne of God be surrounded
with the praises of all that has life.

*The earth glories in her Maker.
Now mountain and valley glow in splendour,
The sea on the shore whispers the praises of Jesus.
Rivers stream through thirsty soil,
bringing news of gladness –
the Redeemer is risen. His glory fills the earth.
The trees thunder their praises,
and loudly clap their hands.

*Sound a trumpet through all the earth.
Our Morning Star is alive!
Risen in splendour, He is among us;
the darkness is driven back.
We, His people, join in the dance of all creation.

*We praise the blood of the Lamb
that has bought our freedom
and reversed the curse of disobedience
and wilfulness.

*Jesus is the true Lamb that was slain,
whose blood is on the door of our hearts,
whose blood is the protection of the homes
of all believers.

*This is now the night
when first You freed Your people,
and led Israel's children
out from slavery in Egypt.
Dry-shod, they walked through the sea.

*This is now the night when the pillar of fire
destroyed the darkness of sin!

*This night, Christians everywhere,
washed clean, and free from any blemish,
are renewed in hope,

and learn to grow together as one.

*This night, Jesus our mighty Lord
broke the chains of death,
and returned to us, undefeated.
He is become our Champion.

*What good would life have been to us,
had the Son of the Most High not come
to redeem us from our helplessness?

*The power of this holy night
drives away evil and washes guilt away,
restores lost innocence,
and turns our mourning into joyful dancing.
It humbles the proud of heart,
overturns hatred, and quickens us to peace.

*In the joy of this night,
Father, receive our offering:
this holy fire, this Easter light.
Let its flame ever-burning
break through the darkness of our times.
Let it be a pillar of fire,
leading us forward in Your truth.

*May the Sun of Justice which never sets
find this flame still burning;
may Christ the Morning Star
who came again from the dead
find His light brightly burning
in our hearts.

*In me, Lord, let there be light.

(Blow out the candles.)

Scripture readings

***1. Creation: Genesis 1 v 26-31**

26. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
28. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
29. Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.
30. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it - I give every green plant for food." And it was so.
31. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day.

***3. The Red Sea: Exodus 14:15-22**

15. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.
16. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through

the sea on dry ground.

17. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen.
18. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”
19. Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them,
20. coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other; so neither went near the other all night long.
21. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,
22. and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

The song of Miriam

*The Lord is my strength and song,
and He is become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will prepare Him an habitation;
my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.

*He hath triumphed gloriously: I will sing unto the Lord.
He hath triumphed gloriously:
the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.

*The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is His name.
Pharaoh’s chariots and his host
hath He cast, hath He cast into the sea.

*Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power;
Thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

*Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, among the gods?
who is like Thee, glorious in holiness,
fearful in praises, doing wonders?

*The Lord is my strength and song,
and He is become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will prepare Him an habitation;
my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.

***4. A way through: Isaiah 43:16-21**

16. This is what the LORD says – he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,
17. who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there,
never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
18. “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
19. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert
and streams in the wasteland.
20. The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams
in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen,
21. the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”

***6. A new heart: Ezekiel 36:24-28,33-36**

24. “For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back

- into your own land.
25. I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.
 26. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh,
 27. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
 28. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”
 33. This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns and the ruins will be rebuilt.
 34. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it.”
 35. They will say: “This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.”
 36. Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the LORD have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.”

*(A Peruvian gloria
(sung Gloria with cantor +)*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father
To Him be glory for ever
Allelujah, amen
Allelujah, amen*

*Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father
To Him be glory for ever
Allelujah, amen
Allelujah, amen*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit
To Him be glory for ever
Allelujah, amen
Allelujah, amen*

Resume scripture readings

***7. Put on Christ: Colossians 3:1-4**

1. Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
2. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
3. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.
4. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

* As we now listen to the story of the events and experiences that led to our Lord’s death and resurrection, we are drawn deeper into the stories – we participate in them.

We are in the room as Jesus takes the towel and basin; we listen as Jesus shares His heart with His friends. We hear Jesus pray for us, you and me. We enter into the confusion, the disappointment, the fear and raw emotion as we witness the events. We agonise at His death, and feel the darkness of bereavement, before the mystery of His coming to us that dispels our doubts and rekindles faith and hope, love and trust. As we listen, may Jesus the Lord of Life speak to us, and touch us with His resurrection power.

Readings from John’s Gospel: chapters 13-21, with new reader or story teller for each chapter.

***Ch 13: 2-15, 21-30**

2. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot,

son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

3. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;
 4. So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist.
 5. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
 6. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"
 7. Jesus replied, "You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
 8. "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."
 9. "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"
 10. Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."
 11. For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.
 12. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.
 13. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord', and rightly so, for that is what I am.
 14. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.
 15. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."
21. After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me."
 22. His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.
 23. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.
 24. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."
 25. Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"
 26. Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon.
 27. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him,
 28. but no-one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.
 29. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor.
 30. As soon as Judas had taken the bread he went out. And it was night.

***Ch 14: 15-17**

15. If you love me, you will obey what I command.
16. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever -
17. the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

***Ch 15: 15-17**

15. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
16. You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.
17. This is my command: love each other.

***Ch 16: 20-22**

20. I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.
21. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.
22. So with you: now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no-one will take away your joy.

***Ch 17: 1-8, 20-21**

1. After Jesus has said this, he looked towards heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.
 2. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.
 3. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
 4. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.
 5. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.
 6. I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.
 7. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.
 8. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.
20. My prayer is not for them alone. I pray for those who will believe in me through their message,
 21. that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

***Ch 18: 1-11, 19-29, 33-38**

1. When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove and he and his disciples went into it.
 2. Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.
 3. So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.
 4. Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"
 5. "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)
 6. When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.
 7. Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."
 8. "I told you that I am he," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for me, then let these men go."
 9. This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled; "I have not lost one of those you gave me."
 10. Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)
 11. Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink this cup the Father has given me?"
19. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.
 20. "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.
 21. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."
 22. When Jesus said this, one of the officials near by struck him in the face. "Is that any way to answer the high priest?" he demanded.
 23. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"
 24. Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.
 25. As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "Surely you are not another of his disciples?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."
 26. One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him. "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?"
 27. Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a cock began to crow.
 28. Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.
 29. So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"
33. Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"
 34. "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"
 35. "Do you think I am a Jew?" Pilate replied, "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

36. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."
37. You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."
38. "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

***Ch 19: 16-18, 25-30**

16. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.
17. Carrying his own cross, he went out to The Place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).
18. Here they crucified him, and with him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle.
25. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.
26. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son,"
27. and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.
28. Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."
29. A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.
30. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(At beginning of chapter 20 relight the candles.)

Short silence

***Ch 20: 1-10, 11-18, 19-23, 24-30**

1. Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.
2. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"
3. So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.
4. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
5. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.
6. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,
7. as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.
8. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.
9. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)
10. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

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11. But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb
12. and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.
13. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."
14. At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus.
15. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."
16. Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).
17. Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"
18. Mary of Magdala went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

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19. On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

20. After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.
21. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
22. And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
23. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

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24. Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.
25. When the other disciples told him that they had seen the Lord, he declared, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."
26. A week later, his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you!"
27. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."
28. Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"
29. Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
30. Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

***Ch 21:1-14, 15-19,20-25**

1. Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way:
2. Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.
3. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
4. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.
5. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No, they answered."
6. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.
7. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!". As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.
8. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about one hundred yards.
9. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.
10. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."
11. Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.
12. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.
13. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.
14. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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15. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."
 16. Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."
 17. The third time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."
 18. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."
 19. Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"
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20. Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?")
 21. When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"
 22. Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

23. Because of this, the rumour spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"
24. This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.
25. Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Short silence

The blessing of water

*Scripture reading: **Isaiah 55:1-11**

1. Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost.
2. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.
3. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my unfailing kindnesses promised to David.
4. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples.
5. Surely you will summon nations you know not and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.
6. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.
7. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
8. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.
9. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
10. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
11. So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

*Lord, Your Spirit brooded over the face
of the deep, and out of the chaos
brought forth life and beauty.
All we have to bring to You is our brokenness.

* In me, O Lord
let there be life.

*Blessed are You, O Lord,
King of the Universe.
Jesus, You are the Living Water,
pouring Yourself out, for us, like a flood,
quenching our thirst with Your love.
Bless this water;

*Let it be to a sign to us (*each hold a glass of water, dip finger, all sign forehead with a cross*)
of the Prince who stands in the streets,
saying, 'Come to Me, receive freely the waters of life!'

Come to the water

*O, let all who thirst,

let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord:
without money, without price.
Why should you pay the price,
except for the Lord?

*And let all who seek,
let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord:
without money, without strife.
Why should you spend your life,
except for the Lord?

*And let all who toil,
let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary,
let them come to the Lord:
all who labour, without rest.
How can your soul find rest,
except for the Lord?

*And let all the poor,
let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden,
bring them all to the Lord:
bring the children without might.
Easy the load and light:
come to the Lord.

A confession of faith

*I call all heaven to witness today
that I have put on Christ.

*I choose no other Lord
than the Maker of heaven and earth.

*This day I walk with Him
and He will walk with me.

*I fasten close to me this day
that same Jesus
who came to us as flesh and blood
and was Himself baptised in the Jordan river.

*He died upon a cross to rescue me,
broke free from death, its conqueror.
He left us, to return the more certainly.

*

All these truths and their power
I fasten close to me this day.

*Resisting my own selfishness and sin,
refusing to live as a slave to riches,

pleasure or reputation,

*

rejecting Satan and all his lies,
I call on heaven to witness today
that I have put on Christ.

(Unmute and all say together:) **AMEN** (and silently make the sign of the Cross)

(All together) **HAPPY EASTER!**