



**A Service of Light:  
Christchurch, Brentor**

**Introduction:**

Dear brothers and sisters 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, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

*A light is lit ...*

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.**

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.**

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

*A light is raised up ...*

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

*A song may be sung ...*

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**Matthew 26:30-35:** When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.'

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, you have called us to follow you. Help us to walk your way no matter what we may face. We ask it in your name. Amen.

**Matthew 26:36-46:** Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you know our weakness and our struggles. Help us to watch with you and to stand for what is right. You are the way and the truth and life. Help us not to betray you but to follow you. We ask it in your name. Amen.

**From Matthew 26:** Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, 'I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.' Jesus said to him, 'You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.'

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Help us to put all our faith and trust in You, who will never drive away anyone who comes to you. Help us to know you love us, no matter what. We ask it in your name. **Amen.**

**Matthew 27:45-50:** From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?'

that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you died on the cross for us. Help us to know that you never forsake us. We ask it in your name. Amen.

**Matthew 27:51-54:** At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, in you all barriers are broken down. Help us to know the new life you offer to all. We ask it in your name. Amen.

**From Matthew 27:** When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

**A Blessing:** This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy, accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.

*A light is raised up ...*

Grant that this Easter light may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory; Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us! Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!

Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever! **Amen.**

May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep us and strengthen us, this night and for ever. **Amen.**



*Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom*