



Service of Light: Kindling the Easter New Fire

Saturday, April 11, 2020 - Anytime After Sunset

Introduction

The new fire of Easter is kindled in the darkness of the night before Easter morning. The light from the flame is a sign of the life of the risen Lord, rising this night from the darkness of death. Usually we kindle the new fire of Easter outside the church at the beginning of the Easter Vigil service, and from this new flame, we light the Paschal Candle which burns throughout the Easter season as a sign of the light of Christ.

This year we cannot gather for the Easter Vigil service.

Instead, use this service to light the Easter fire at your house. You can light a candle, light a fireplace, light a firepit or even make a bonfire – just find a way to kindle a fire and pray, by yourself or with your family members, the beautiful prayers printed here. The person who is leading the prayers is the “Officiant,” but feel free to divide up the prayers as seems most suitable for your family. And if you’re by yourself just say it all.

The Lighting of the New Fire

In the darkness, fire is kindled. After the fire is going, the Officiant says

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which we share in his victory over death.

The Officiant says the following prayer

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Please share a photo of your Easter New Fire on the
St. Andrew's Families Facebook page!**

The Exsultet

This beautiful prayer is an exclamation of joy. At the Vigil it is often sung, but it works just fine to say it too. If you're able to light the new fire with multiple people, consider having everyone read a section.

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this light in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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