

**The Churches of St Mary, Haxby  
and St Nicholas, Wigginton**  
The United Benefice of Haxby and Wigginton

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**Easter Eve (Holy Saturday)  
Audio Service**

**A service to greet Easter**

*We are grateful to members of the congregation who have contributed recordings for this service.*

**Welcome**

Welcome to this service on the eve of Easter Day, on which we recall that our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life. The Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather on this day in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and music we anticipate, and share, in his victory over death.

In our audio service on Monday and throughout this Holy Week in our church services, we have been reflecting on the theme of the Garden of Tears. Later on in this service we shall ponder on 'tears of joy'. But first, by tradition on Easter Eve, we shall hear, through Scripture, the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fulness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer.

In this service to greet Easter we complete this recollection by linking the story of our Christian redemption to the Passover night of Israel's redemption out of Egypt.

Let us pray that through this celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

**Hymn: Jesus lives! thy terrors now**

Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
can, O death, no more appal us;  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us. Alleluia.

Jesus lives! henceforth is death  
but the gate of life immortal:  
this shall calm our trembling breath,  
when we pass its gloomy portal. Alleluia.

Jesus lives! for us he died;  
then, alone to Jesus living,  
pure in heart may we abide,  
glory to our Saviour giving. Alleluia.

Jesus lives! our hearts know well,  
naught from us his love shall sever;  
life nor death nor powers of hell  
tear us from his keeping ever. Alleluia.

Jesus lives! to him the throne  
over all the world is given:  
may we go where he is gone,  
rest and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia.

*Jesus lebt, mit ihm auch ich  
Christian Fuerchtegott Gellert (1715-1769),  
Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897)*

**Lighting a candle**

Paschal (Easter) Candles will be lit in our churches tomorrow.

You may like to light a candle now (if safe to do so) for the duration of this audio service.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night: to you be praise and glory for ever. From the deep waters of death you brought your people to new birth by raising your Son to life in triumph.

Through him dark death has been destroyed and radiant life is everywhere restored. As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light may our lives reflect his glory and our lips repeat the endless song.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Vigil Readings**

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly.

It is the passover of the Lord.  
For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

*(Exodus 12: 1 – 4, 11 – 14, NRSV)*

*Let us pray that God will feed and sustain his people through the hard journeys of this life.*

**Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation. With the dawning of their deliverance your people ate the feast of freedom. As Christ our Passover Lamb gives hope to the hopeless and frees the ensnared, establish the justice for which your heart yearns, O Lord, our maker and redeemer. Amen.**

### **Responsory**

The Lord is my strength and my song: he has become my salvation.

**The Lord is my strength and my song: he has become my salvation.**

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

**He has become my salvation.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**The Lord is my strength and my song: he has become my salvation.**

### **A reading from the book of Exodus**

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt?’

Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord

will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.

The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.

At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty.

The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth.

As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through

the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang a song to the Lord.

*(Exodus 14: 10 – end; 15: 1a, NRSV)*

**Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn: Love's redeeming work is done**

Love's redeeming work is done;  
fought the fight, the battle won:  
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!  
lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!  
Christ has burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids his rise;  
Christ has opened Paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following our exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise;  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
Praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the

land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

*(Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34, NRSV)*

**Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Responsory**

In your unfailing love, O Lord,  
**you lead the people whom you have redeemed.**

By your invincible strength  
**you will guide them to your holy dwelling.**  
You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord,  
**in the sanctuary which your hands have established.**

*(from Exodus 15)*

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a

rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.

*(Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14, NRSV)*

**Lord God of our salvation, you speak the word to your scattered people, and bring up our life from the valley of death: breathe your Spirit upon your Church, that we may live and stand before you confident in your risen Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **Hymn: Ye choirs of new Jerusalem**

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
the paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,  
and crushed the serpent's head;  
and brought with him, from death's domains  
the long-imprisoned dead.

Triumphant in his glory now  
his sceptre ruleth all;  
earth, heaven and hell before him bow  
and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,  
his mercy we implore,  
into his palace bright to bring  
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost to thee,  
while endless ages run.  
Alleluia, Amen.

*Chorus novae Jerusalem  
Fulbert of Chartres (c.960-1028), John Mason Neale  
(1818-1866), Robert Campbell (1814-1868)*

### **The Garden of Tears Reflection: Tears of joy**

*The reflection includes this reading:*

*A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke*

*On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had followed Jesus from Galilee went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

*While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?*

*He is not here, but has risen.*

*Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."*

*And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.*

*(Luke 24: 1 – 9)*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

## Collect

God of life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Blessing

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and new future, fill you with his new life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.

**Amen.**

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**

## Hallelujah from 'Messiah' (G F Handel)

Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah.

(Revelation 19: 6b; 11: 15b; 19: 1)

## Music on audio

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