Exsultet & Prayers from St Giles, Aintree

*Holy, or Black, Saturday is part of the big 3 days of the triduum, in which the church builds up to celebrating Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Day.*

*Traditionally, it is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day – most commonly in the evening of Holy Saturday or midnight and is the first celebration of Easter. In Jesus’ day, days were considered to begin at sunset.*

*This service is a short offering of prayers & readings, along with the Exsultet – an ancient hymn dating back to the 7th Century that recalling God’s presence with his people through the Bible and welcoming Christ’s Resurrection.*

*This service is a shortened version of a vigil service.*

A Gathering

*Our service begin with the church in darkness; before a candle is lit.*

The Exsultet

*The Easter Hymn of Praise is sung.*

Bible Readings & Prayers

*Bible Readings are read, along with prayers giving thanks.*

*After each prayer, we join in the ending, with* ***‘Amen’.***

Paschal Homily

*St John Chrysostom (d. 407), known as ‘Golden Tongue’ wrote a homily for Easter.*

*It is read at the first service of Easter in Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine Catholic Churches. It may be read here or another short reflection given.*

Final Prayers & Easter Acclamation

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let us praise and exalt him for ever.

***All   Blessing and honour and glory and power be to him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.***

Great and marvellous are your works, Lord God the almighty; just and true are your ways, King of saints; all glorious your gifts, Spirit of life. Blessing and honour and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever*.* ***Amen.***

*After each bidding prayer, we respond with:*

***‘and his mercy endures forever’*** *or* ***‘blessed be Christ’.***

*The final prayer:*

Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise more than we can utter,

more than we can conceive, be to you, O most adorable Trinity,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, by all angels, all peoples, all creation, for ever and ever.

*(Lancelot Andrewes, 1626)*

Alleluia, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**