



THE  
GREAT VIGIL  
OF EASTER

April 3, 2021

# SERVICE OF LIGHT

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## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

**P** Let us pray. O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival, that burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BLESSING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

**P** Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and the Omega. His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever. By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

*The paschal candle is lit.*

**P** May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

## COLLECT

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

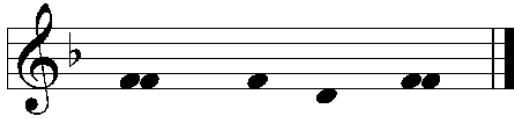
*All light their candles from the paschal candle and follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church.*

*The bearer of the paschal candle stops at the entrance to the nave.*

## LUX CHRISTI

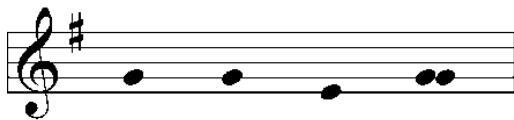


The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

*The bearer of the paschal candle stops in the middle of the nave.*

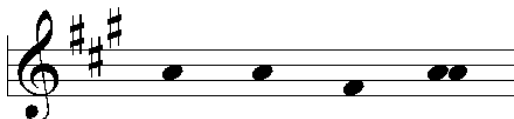


The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

*When all have processed, the bearer of the paschal candle lifts the paschal candle high.*



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

## EXSULTET

**P** Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice, too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood. 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 ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*All extinguish their candles.*

*Sit*

## SERVICE OF READINGS

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**P** In this most holy night, our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His word. The Sun of Righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

### THE CREATION

**Genesis 1:1–2:3**

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE FLOOD

Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray. O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ's body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10–15:1

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray. O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and Everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who are brought to newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ may show forth in their lives what they confess with their lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Ezekiel 37:1–14

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray. O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam's children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Zephaniah 3:12-20

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray.

Look in mercy, O Lord, upon Your faithful people, and by Word and Spirit bring to completion that good work which You have begun in us. Gather in Your people that all the world may see and know that what has been cast down is raised up and what has grown old has been made new, until the work You have begun in us is brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3:1-30

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray. O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## CANTICLE

*All You Works of God, Bless the Lord*

LSB 930



1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!  
2 Sing, you sun and you moon a - bove,  
3 Frost of win - ter with song so cold,  
4 Hills and moun - tains, now sing His worth,



All you an - gels, now bless the Lord;  
Stars of heav - en, now sing His love;  
Dews of sum - mer, your song un - fold;  
All you green things that grow on earth;



Come, you heav - ens and pow'rs that be,  
Dew and show - ers, you winds that blow,  
Light and dark - ness, you day and night,  
Seas and riv - ers, you springs and wells,

Praise the Lord and His maj - es - ty:  
 Heat and fire, and you ice and snow:  
 Clouds of thun - der, you light - nings bright:  
 Beasts and cat - tle, you birds and whales:

*Refrain*

Raise your voic - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,  
 All you works of God, bless the Lord!

Raise your voic - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,  
 All you works of God, bless the Lord!

**5. Come, humanity, sing along,  
 Sing, you people of God, a song;  
 Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,  
 Join, you spirits and souls at rest: Refrain**

**6. Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;  
 All you humble, His praise impart;  
 God the Father and Son adore,  
 Bless the Spirit forevermore! Refrain**

## SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

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### BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

**P** On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says:

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

*Romans 6:3–11*



## PRAYER

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## RENUNCIATION

**P** Do you renounce the devil?

**C** Yes, I renounce him.

**P** Do you renounce all his works?

**C** Yes, I renounce them.

**P** Do you renounce all his ways?

**C** Yes, I renounce them.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

**C** Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**C** Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C** Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life † everlasting. Amen.



## REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM AND THE RITE OF ASPERSION

**P** The rite of aspersion (the sprinkling of baptismal water), referencing Psalm 51, dates to the 9<sup>th</sup> century and serves as a form of baptismal remembrance. During the singing of the baptismal hymn, water from the baptismal font will be sprinkled upon the congregation, signifying the Resurrected Life bestowed through the Word of God in Holy Baptism. You are invited to make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism as you feel the sprinkling of water.

### Psalm 51:1-7

**P** <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**C** <sup>2</sup>**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

**P** <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**C** <sup>4</sup>**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**

**P** <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**C** <sup>6</sup>**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

**P** <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Sit

## HYMN

*Water, Blood and Spirit Crying*

LSB 597



1 Wa - ter, blood, and Spir - it cry - ing, By their wit - ness  
 2 In a wa - t'ry grave are bur - ied All our sins that  
 3 Dark the way, yet Christ pre - cedes us, Past the scowl of  
 4 Though a - round us death is seeth - ing, God, His two - edged  
 5 Spir - it, wa - ter, blood en - treat - ing, Work - ing faith and



tes - ti - fy - ing To the One whose death - de - fy - ing  
 Je - sus car - ried; Christ, the Ark of Life, has fer - ried  
 death He leads us; Spreads a ta - ble where He feeds us  
 sword un - sheath - ing, By His Spir - it life is breath - ing  
 its com - plet - ing In the One whose death - de - feat - ing



Life has come, with life for all.  
 Us a - cross death's rag - ing flood.  
 With His bod - y and His blood.  
 Through the liv - ing, ac - tive Word.  
 Life has come, with life for all.

## BLESSING

**P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

**C** Amen.

**P** Peace † be with you.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## SERVICE OF PRAYER

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### LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** hear us.

**P** Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he, too, might believe,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

**C** **have mercy on us.**

**P** By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,

**C** **good Lord, deliver us.**

**P** By Your victory over sin and death,

**C** **good Lord, deliver us.**

**P** By the majesty of Your risen body,

**C** **good Lord, deliver us.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You

**C** **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**

**P** That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,

**C** **grant us, good Lord.**

**P** That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by You,

**C** **grant us, good Lord.**

**P** That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,

**C** **grant us, good Lord.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **have mercy on us.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **have mercy on us.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **grant us Your peace.**

**P** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Christ,

**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy. Amen.**

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### *This Is the Feast*

*Refrain*



**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Mark 16:1-8*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. <sup>5</sup>And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*Return to the Church*

**Pastor Joel Schultz**

## COLLECT

**P** Let us pray. O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## BENEDICAMUS/BENEDICTION

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** The Lord bless you...and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise*

LSB 680



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -  
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the  
 3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the  
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the  
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head  
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree  
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee  
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise  
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the  
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the  
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the  
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the  
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the  
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the  
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine-yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.  
splen-dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

## **Easter Service with Communion**

800, 930, 1100am

Parking lot communion with the 11 am service – about 1145

### **Acknowledgements**

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