

## EASTER VIGIL WORSHIP SERVICE, APRIL 19, 2025

*(The congregation gathers in a convenient place outside the nave of the church. Where permissible, candles are given to all, later to be lighted from the paschal candle.)*

*(In the semidarkness a fire may be kindled.)*

### + SERVICE OF LIGHT +

P In the name of the Father and of the T 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.**

*(The pastor traces the cross on the candle while saying:)*

P Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

*(and then traces the Greek letters Alpha and Omega on the candle while saying:)*

the Alpha and the Omega.

*(He traces the year on the candle, saying:)*

P His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

*(He puts the five wax nails into the candle, saying:)*

P By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

*(Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, he says:)*

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

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 then follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church.)*

*(At the entrance of the nave, the bearer of the paschal candle stops and chants:)*

**A** The light of Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(When the candle bearer reaches the middle of the nave, he chants for the second time:)*

**A** The light of Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(When the candle bearer arrives at the candle stand, he turns to face the congregation.)*

*(After all have reached their places, the candle bearer lifts the candle high and chants the third time:)*

**A** The light of Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(After the candle bearer places the paschal candle in its stand, the assistant turns to face the people and chants or speaks the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet).)*

**A** Re - joice now, all you heav'n - ly choirs of an - gels; re - joice now, all

cre - a - tion; sound forth, trum-pet of sal - va - tion, and pro-claim

the tri - umph of our King. Re - joice too, all the earth,

in the radiance of the light now poured up - on you

and made brilliant by the brightness of the ev - er-last-ing King;

know that the an - cient dark - ness has been for - ev -  
 er ban - ished. Re - joice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the  
 bright-ness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with re -  
 joic - ing, with the prais - es of all God's faith-ful peo - ple.

**PREFACE**

LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so 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.

**EASTER PROCLAMATION**

**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 may extinguish their candles at this time. The paschal candle remains lighted throughout the service. A few lights in the nave may be turned on.)*

*(Sit)*

## **+ SERVICE OF READINGS +**

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 FLOOD**

A A reading from Genesis, chapters seven, eight, and nine.

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. Then God said to Noah, "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living

creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

A 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**

A A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work 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 be silent.”

The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,  
“I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

A 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**

A A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 36.

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

A 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.**

## **JOB CONFESSES THE REDEEMER**

A A reading from Job, chapter 19.

My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh,  
and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.  
Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends,  
for the hand of God has touched me!  
Why do you, like God, pursue me?  
Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?

“Oh that my words were written!  
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!  
Oh that with an iron pen and lead  
they were engraved in the rock forever!  
For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I shall see God,  
whom I shall see for myself,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.  
My heart faints within me!”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our great Redeemer, in the sacrifice of Your Son You put to death our wretched flesh and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we may always cling to Christ by faith in this life that at the last we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see You face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

**COME, YOU FAITHFUL, RAISE THE STRAIN**      **LSB 487** *sts. 1–4*



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain      Of tri - um-phant glad - ness!  
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day:      Christ has burst His pris - on  
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright      With the day of splen - dor,  
 4 For to - day a - mong His own      Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing



God has brought His Is - ra - el      In - to joy from sad - ness,  
 And from three days' sleep in death      As a sun has ris - en;  
 With the roy - al feast of feasts      Comes its joy to ren - der;  
 His deep peace, which ev - er - more      Pass - es hu - man know - ing.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke      Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
 All the win - ter of our sins,      Long and dark, is fly - ing  
 Comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts      Which with true af - fec - tion  
 Nei - ther could the gates of death      Nor the tomb's dark por - tal



Led them with un-moist-ened foot      Through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 From His light, to whom is giv'n      Laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 Wel - come in un - wea - ried strain      Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
 Nor the watch - ers nor the seal      Hold Him as a mor - tal.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547 Text and tune: Public domain

*(During the canticle, the candle bearer carries the paschal candle to the font, followed by the pastor(s). If there are candidates for Baptism or confirmation, or if there are new members to be received, they also gather at the font, together with their sponsors and families.)*

**+ SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM +**

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.

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 all 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.**

P From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

P Is it your intention to serve *[name of candidate(s)]* as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

C **Amen.**

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.**

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.**

*(When candidates for Baptism are present, the following is used:)*

*(The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:)*

P Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

*(The pastor addresses each candidate:)*

P How are you named?

R *[Name]*

P *[Name]*, do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*



*(The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:)*

P [Name], I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

*(The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:)*

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.**

*(The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:)*

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

P Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

P Peace be with you.  
C **Amen.**

*(Following the Service of Holy Baptism, the candidates return to their places. The paschal candle is placed back in its stand, and the ministers return to their earlier stations.)*

## + SERVICE OF PRAYER +

### LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

A O Lord,  
C **have mercy.**  
A O Christ,  
C **have mercy.**  
A O Lord,  
C **have mercy.**  
A Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
C **hear us.**  
A Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,  
C **have mercy on us.**  
A Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,  
C **have mercy on us.**  
A Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"  
C **have mercy on us.**  
A Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,  
C **have mercy on us.**  
A Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,  
C **have mercy on us.**  
A Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,  
C **have mercy on us.**  
A 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.**  
A Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,

C **have mercy on us.**  
 A Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,  
 C **have mercy on us.**  
 A Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,  
 C **have mercy on us.**  
 A 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.**  
 A Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,  
 C **have mercy on us.**  
 A By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,  
 C **good Lord, deliver us.**  
 A By Your victory over sin and death,  
 C **good Lord, deliver us.**  
 A By the majesty of Your risen body,  
 C **good Lord, deliver us.**  
 A We poor sinners implore You  
 C **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**  
 A 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.**  
 A That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,  
 C **grant us, good Lord.**  
 A 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.**  
 A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
 C **have mercy on us.**  
 A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
 C **have mercy on us.**  
 A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
 C **grant us Your peace.**  
 A O Lord,  
 C **have mercy.**  
 A O Christ,  
 C **have mercy.**  
 A O Lord,  
 C **have mercy. Amen.**

### + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

*(The Vigil continues with a brief service of the Word according to one of the settings of the Divine Service, allowing for the proclamation of the Easter Gospel. The service is abbreviated in the following manner:)*

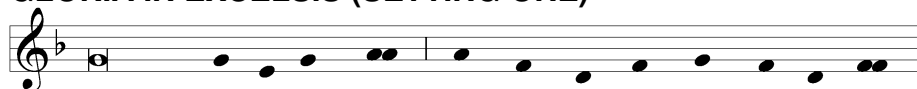
#### **EASTER ACCLAMATION**

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

*(The altar candles may now be lighted from the paschal candle. Lights in the church are turned on, bells may be rung, the chancel may be decorated, and the altar may be prepared for the Sacrament while the congregation sings the Hymn of Praise.)*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (SETTING ONE)

LSB 154



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with your spirit.**

**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.**

**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.**

## **PASCHAL HOMILY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (4TH CENTURY)**

P If any be a devout lover of God,  
let him partake with gladness from this fair and radiant feast.  
If any be a faithful servant,  
let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord.  
If any have wearied himself with fasting,  
let him now enjoy his reward.  
If any have laboured from the first hour,  
let him receive today his rightful due.  
If any have come after the third,  
let him celebrate the feast with thankfulness.  
If any have come after the sixth,  
let him not be in doubt, for he will suffer no loss.  
If any have delayed until the ninth,  
let him not hesitate but draw near.  
If any have arrived only at the eleventh,  
let him not be afraid because he comes so late.

For the Master is generous and accepts the last even as the first.  
He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour  
in the same was as him who has laboured from the first.  
He accepts the deed, and commends the intention.

Enter then, all of you, into the joy of our Lord.  
First and last, receive alike your reward.  
Rich and poor, dance together.  
You who fasted and you who have not fasted, rejoice together.  
The table is fully laden: let all enjoy it.  
The calf is fatted: let none go away hungry.

Let none lament his poverty;  
for the universal Kingdom is revealed.  
Let none bewail his transgressions;  
for the light of forgiveness has risen from the tomb.  
Let none fear death;  
for death of the Saviour has set us free.

He has destroyed death by undergoing death.  
He has despoiled hell by descending into hell.  
He vexed it even as it tasted of His flesh.  
Isaiah foretold this when he cried:  
Hell was filled with bitterness when it met Thee face to face below;  
filled with bitterness, for it was brought to nothing;  
filled with bitterness, for it was mocked;  
filled with bitterness, for it was overthrown;  
filled with bitterness, for it was put in chains.  
Hell received a body, and encountered God. It received earth, and confronted heaven.

O death, where is your sting?  
O hell, where is your victory?

Christ is risen! And you, o death, are annihilated!  
Christ is risen! And the evil ones are cast down!  
Christ is risen! And the angels rejoice!  
Christ is risen! And life is liberated!  
Christ is risen! And the tomb is emptied of its dead;  
for Christ having risen from the dead,  
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power, now and forever, and from all ages to all ages.  
Amen!

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*LSB 162*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **PAX DOMINI**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

# CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE

LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of

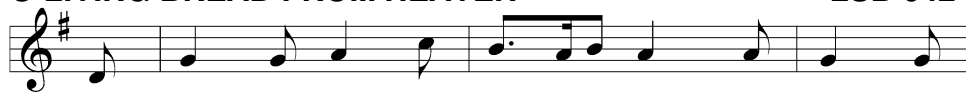


to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

# O LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN

LSB 642



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You  
 2 My Lord, You here have led me To this most  
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can  
 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly



feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en  
 ho - ly place And with Your - self have fed me  
 death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed  
 food, while here My course on earth is length - ened,



Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, won - drous food of  
 The trea - sures of Your grace; For You have free - ly  
 The cup of end - less joy. My Lord, I do not  
 To serve with ho - ly fear. And when You call my



bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this  
 giv - en What earth could nev - er buy, The bread of  
 mer - it The fa - vor You have shown, And all my  
 spir - it To leave this world be - low, I en - ter,



gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows.  
 life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.  
 soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore Your throne.  
 through Your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius  
 Text and tune: Public domain

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.**

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

# I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

LSB 461



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to  
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious  
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry  
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.  
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;  
He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793 Text and tune: Public domain

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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