

## EASTER VIGIL SERVICE, SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

*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.*

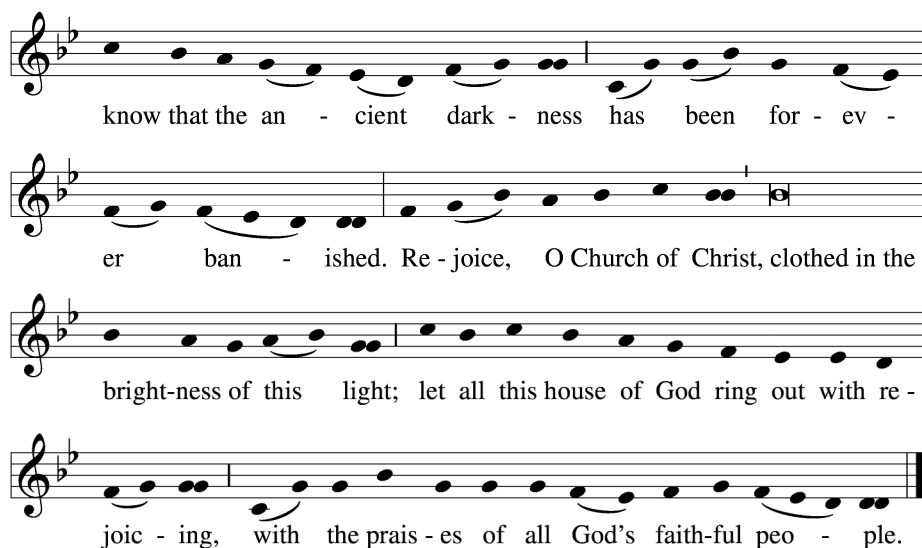
*After all have reached their places, the candle bearer lifts the candle high and chants the third time:*

**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).*

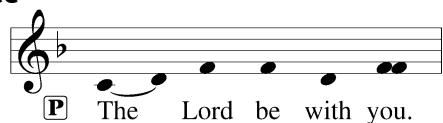
**A** Re - jice now, all you heav'n - ly choirs of an - gels; re - jice now, all  
 cre - a - tion; sound forth, trum-pet of sal - va - tion, and pro-claim  
 the tri - umph of our King. Re - jice too, all the earth,  
 in the radiance of the light now poured up - on you  
 and made brilliant by the brightness of the ev - er-last-ing King;



know that the an - cient dark - ness has been for - ev -  
er ban - ished. Re - jice, 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**

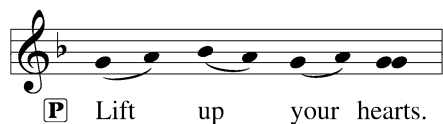
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**P** The Lord be with you.



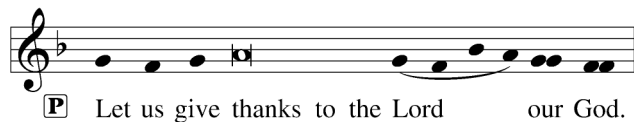
**C** And al - so with you.



**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.

### Creation

*Genesis 1:1–2, 26–2:3*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” <sup>29</sup>And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup>And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

### The Creation

**A** A reading from Genesis, chapters one and two.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

A 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.**

## 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.**

## Salvation Offered Freely to All

A A reading from Isaiah, chapter 55.

"Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;  
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

“Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your Word You created and sustain all things, and by Your Spirit You renew Your creation. Grant now the water of life to all who thirst for You that they may bring forth abundant fruit in Your glorious kingdom; 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.**

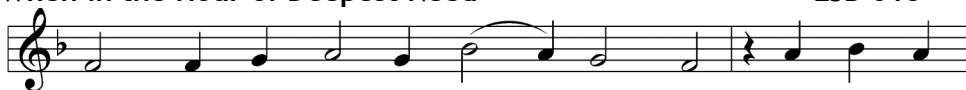
P Let us pray.

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.**

## When in the Hour of Deepest Need

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1 When in the hour of deep - est need We know not  
2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may  
3 For You have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil - dren's  
4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our



where to look for aid; When days and nights of  
meet be - fore Your throne; To You, O faith - ful  
cries in time of need Through Him whose name a -  
woes be - fore You lay; For sore - ly tried, cast



anx - ious thought No help or coun - sel yet have brought,  
God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.  
lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.  
down, we stand, Per - plexed by fears on ev - 'ry hand.

5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;  
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.  
Be with us in our anguish still;  
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

6 So we with all our hearts each day  
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,  
Then walk obedient to Your Word,  
And now and ever praise You, Lord.

*Text: Paul Eber, 1511-69; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-61  
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 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.**

*Addressing the entire congregation, the pastor says:*

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.**

*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.



**G** 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 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.**

## Offering

### Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

LSB 487



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  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



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.  
Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



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  
Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



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.  
God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

## Paschal Homily

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!

### 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.**

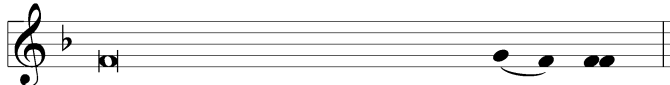
### The Words of Our Lord

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."

### Pax Domini

LSB 163



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

### Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



## Distribution

### 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*

# He's Risen, He's Risen

LSB 480



1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;  
 2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry  
 3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,  
 4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
 Δ 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.  
 The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.  
 And death, hell, and Sa - tan He van - quished, His foes.  
 Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.  
 Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song  
 In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,  
 The con - quer - ing Lord lifts His ban - ner on high;  
 For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;  
 Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.  
 For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.  
 He lives, yes, He lives, and will nev - er - more die.  
 Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.  
 With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

*Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811-87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867-1941, alt.*

*Tune: C. F. W. Walther, 1811-87; Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001895*

*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 al - mighty and mer - ci - ful Lord, the Father, the † Son,

and the Holy Spir - it, bless and pre - serve you.

**C** A - men.

**Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won**

**LSB 490**

1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -  
 2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is  
 3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus  
 4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall  
 5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the gate of life im -

pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!  
 giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,  
 liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,  
 sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell  
 mor - tal; This shall calm my trem - bling breath

From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er  
 Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is  
 Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I  
 Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will  
 When I pass its gloom - y por - tal. Faith shall

scenes will then com - mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 faith - ful; doubt - ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 cry, as fails each sense; Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

*Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715-69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-97, alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662  
 Text and tune: Public domain*

**Acknowledgments**

Vigil of Easter from Lutheran Service Book

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