

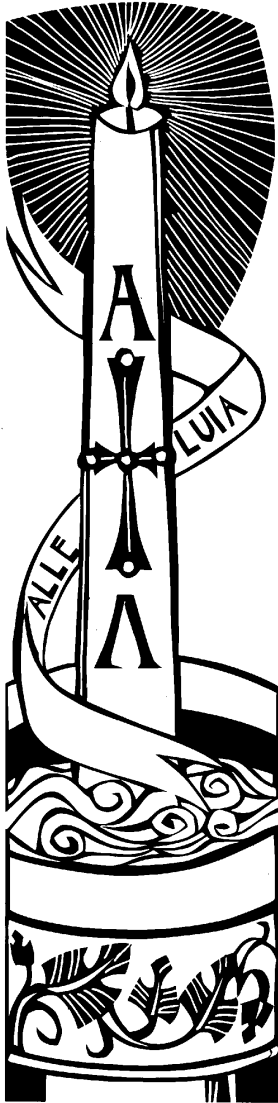


CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Easter Vigil

+ April 8, 2023 +

The Vigil of Easter, which is celebrated at the end of Holy Saturday as the conclusion to the sacred Triduum, ushers in the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Day.



The Vigil of Easter connects the days of Holy Week, especially Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, with the celebration of the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The service points to our Baptism where we are clothed for the banquet and become participants in the victory feast of the Lamb.

Throughout the early centuries of the Church, the people of God kept vigil throughout the night in expectation of Christ's return. This vigil at Easter eventually became a common feature of the celebration of His crucifixion and resurrection.

The vigil consisted of prayer, psalms, hymns, and readings, especially from the Old Testament, culminating in the celebration of the resurrection at dawn with the Lord's Supper. During the Vigil, those who had prepared throughout Lent to be joined to Christ were baptized. At the dawn of the new day at Easter sunrise, the newly baptized joined the entire Church in the chorus of alleluias at Christ's resurrection from the dead.

While making a vigil through the night may not be common today, Christians nonetheless gather on Holy Saturday to wait in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection and for His second coming. The Vigil of Easter is comprised of six parts:

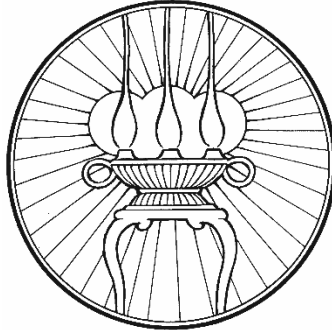
- ✦ *the Service of Light*
- ✦ *the Service of Readings*
- ✦ *the Service of Holy Baptism*
- ✦ *the Service of Prayer*
- ✦ *the Service of the Word*
- ✦ *the Service of the Sacrament*

Because the Vigil of Easter marks the final day in the sacred Triduum, the service ends with the Benediction, which has not been heard since the beginning of the Triduum, and the Easter Acclamation:

Christ Is Risen!

THE VIGIL OF EASTER

SERVICE OF LIGHT



*The congregation gathers in the semidarkness around the fire to begin the Vigil.
The Paschal Candle is lit, the "Light of Christ!" is proclaimed,
and we give thanks, for all light comes from Him.
As we spread the light of Christ, we become the source of light for one another
and then follow Him together from the darkness of death into the light of new life.*

P Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which Our Lord Jesus passed over from death into life, we are gathered here in vigil and in 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 and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega upon the paschal candle, saying:

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

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.

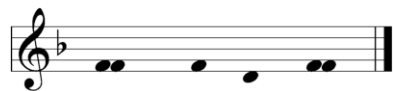
*All light their candles from the Paschal candle.
As you receive the light, please tilt your candle.*

LUX CHRISTI

At the entrance of the nave, the bearer of the paschal candles stops, and the pastor chants:



The light of Christ.

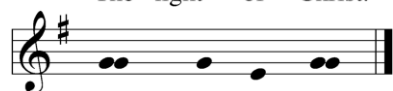


Thanks be to God.

At the middle of the nave, he chants a second time:



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

When the candle bearer arrives at the front of the nave, and once all have reached their places, the pastor chants a third time:



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

The congregation remains standing as the Proclamation of Easter (Exsultet) is sung.

*This ancient hymn first invites heaven to praise God,
which is exactly what all the angels in eternity are doing:*

“Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels.”

Then the earth below is invited to join in,

“Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you.”

For our everlasting King Jesus Christ is risen!

EXSULTET — THE PROCLAMATION OF EASTER

Sung by Cantor

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.

Exsultet – The Proclamation of Easter (St. Ambrose of Milan, ca. 380 A.D.)

PREFACE



The Lord be with you.



And al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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.

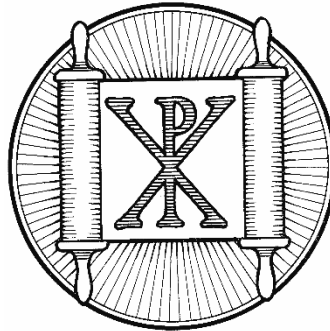


A - men.



Please extinguish your candle and be seated

SERVICE OF READINGS



Throughout the history of the world, we find God at work in His love and mercy providing a Savior to rescue us from the slavery of sin, death, and hell. The Old Testament readings point us to our Savior Jesus Christ and the gifts by which He gives us life and salvation.

- 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 1:1-6, 8-10, 12-15, 19-24, 26-2:3

A This is Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33:1-11

EXULTATE, IUSTI, IN DOMINO



Shout for joy in the LORD, O you | righteous!*

Praise befits the | upright.

Give thanks to the LORD | with the lyre;*

make melody to him with the harp of | ten strings!

Sing to him a | new song;*
play skillfully on the strings, with | loud shouts.

**For the word of the LORD is | upright,*
and all his work is done in | faithfulness.**

He loves righteousness and | justice;*
the earth is full of the steadfast love | of the LORD.

**By the word of the LORD the heav- | ens were made,*
and by the breath of his mouth | all their host.**

He gathers the waters of the sea | as a heap;*
he puts the deeps in | storehouses.

**Let all the earth | fear the LORD;*
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in | awe of him!**

For he spoke, and it | came to be;*
he commanded, and it | stood firm.

**The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to | nothing;*
he frustrates the plans of the | peoples.**

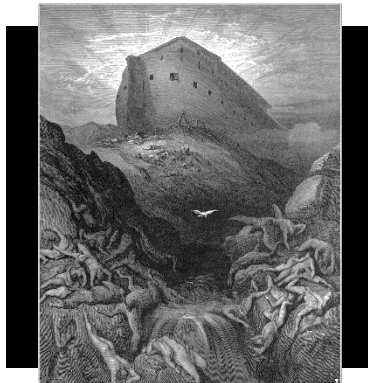
The counsel of the LORD stands for- | ever,*
the plans of his heart to all gener- | ations.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

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 ARK

Genesis 7:1, 5, 11-12, 17b-18, 8:13-18, 9:8-13

A This is Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly | beings,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*
worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness.

The voice of the LORD is over the | waters;*
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many | waters.

The voice of the LORD is | powerful;*
the voice of the LORD is full of | majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedars;*
the LORD breaks the cedars of | Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon to skip | like a calf,*
and Sirion like a young | wild ox.

The voice | of the LORD*
flashes forth | flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD shakes the | wilderness;*
the LORD shakes the wilderness | of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the | forests bare,*
and in his temple all cry, | “Glory!”

The LORD sits enthroned o- | ver the flood;*
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | ever.

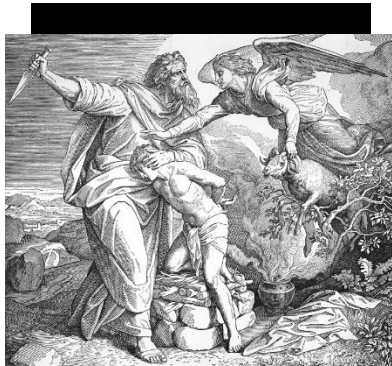
May the LORD give strength to his | people!*
May the LORD bless his people | with peace!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

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.



THE BINDING OF ISAAC
Genesis 22:1-8

- A** This is Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 10:1-10

QUARE DOMINE STAS A LONGE



Why, O LORD, do you stand a- | far off?*

Why do you hide yourself in times of | trouble?

In arrogance the wicked hotly pur- | sue the poor;*
let them be caught in the schemes that they | have devised.

For the wicked boasts of the desires | of his soul,*
and the one greedy for gain curses and renounc- | es the LORD.

In the pride of his face the wicked does not | seek him;*
all his thoughts are, “There | is no God.”

His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out | of his sight;*
as for all his foes, he | puffs at them.

He says in his heart, “I shall | not be moved;*
throughout all generations I shall not meet ad- | versity.”

His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and op- | pression;*
under his tongue are mischief and in- | iquity.

He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the | innocent.*
His eyes stealthily watch for the | helpless;

he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket; he lurks that he may | seize the poor;*
he seizes the poor when he draws him in- | to his net.

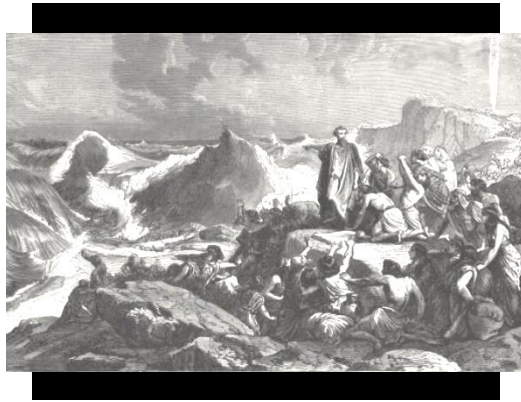
The help- | less are crushed,*
sink down, and fall | by his might.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P Let us pray.

O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.



ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA
Exodus 14:10-11, 13-14, 19-24, 26-15:1

A This is Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

EXODUS 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18

CONTEMUS DOMINO

*Cantor: The Lord God is my strength and my song,
And He has become my salvation.*

This is my God, and I will | praise Him,*
my father's God, and I will ex- | alt Him.
The LORD is a | man of war;*
the LORD | is His name.

**Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast in- | to the sea,*
and his chosen officers were sunk in the | Red Sea.**

**The floods | covered them;*
they went down into the depths | like a stone.**

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,*
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.
Who is like you, O Lord, a- | mong the gods?*

Refrain

You stretched out your | right hand;*
the earth | swallowed them.
You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You | have redeemed;*
You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho- | ly abode.

You will bring them in and plant them on Your own | mountain,*
the place, O LORD, which You have made for | Your abode,
the sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have es- | tablished.*
The LORD will reign forever and | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

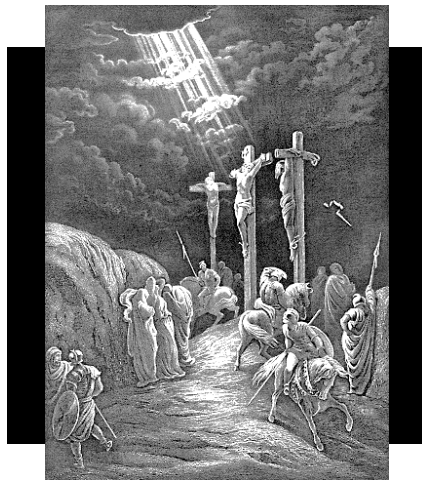
Refrain

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.

Please be seated



THE WORD: SALVATION TO ALL
Isaiah 55:1-11

A This is Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



As a deer pants for | flowing streams,*
so pants my soul for you, | O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the | living God.*
When shall I come and appear be- | fore God?

My tears have been my food | day and night,*
while they say to me continually, “Where | is your God?”

These things I remember, as I pour | out my soul: *
how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the | house of God
with glad shouts and | songs of praise,*
a multitude keeping | festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?*
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation | and my God.

My soul is cast down with- | in me;*
therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount | Mizar.

Deep calls to deep at the roar of your | waterfalls; *
all your breakers and your waves have gone | over me.
By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is | with me,*
a prayer to the God | of my life.

I say to God, my rock: “Why have you for- | gotten me?*
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the | enemy?”
As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries | taunt me,*
while they say to me continually, “Where | is your God?”

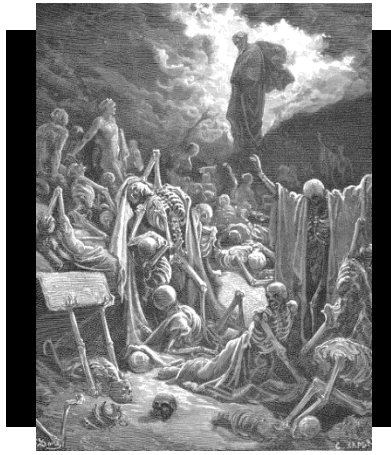
Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me? *
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation | and my God.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

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.



VALLEY OF DRY BONES
Ezekiel 37:1-14

- A** This is Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:8-15

MISERERE MEI, DEUS, SECUNDUM



Let me hear joy and | gladness,*
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.

**Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all my in- | iquities.**

**Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.**

Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.

Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.

**Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,*
and sinners will re- | turn to you.**

**Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my sal- | vation,*
and my tongue will sing aloud of your | righteousness.**

O Lord, open | my lips,*
and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.

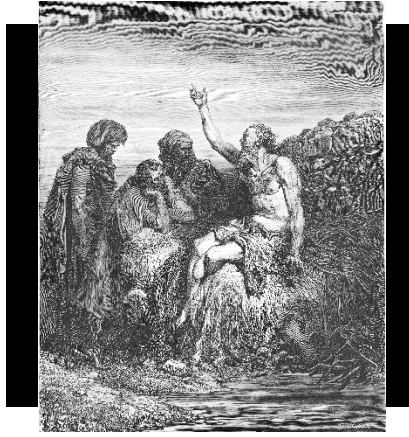
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

- 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.



JOB CONFESSES THE REDEEMER

Job 19:20-27

A This is Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

PSALM 16

CONSERVA ME, DOMINE



Preserve me, | O God,*
for in you I take | refuge.

I say to the LORD, “You | are my Lord;*
I have no good a- | part from you.”

As for the saints | in the land,*
they are the excellent ones, in whom is all | my delight.

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall | multiply;*

their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names | on my lips.

The LORD is my chosen portion | and my cup;*

you | hold my lot.

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant | places;*
indeed, I have a beautiful in- | heritance.

I bless the LORD who gives me | counsel;*
in the night also my heart in- | structs me.

I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;*

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be | shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- | joices;*

my flesh also | dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,*
or let your holy one see cor- | ruption.

You make known to me the | path of life;*
in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

P Let us pray.

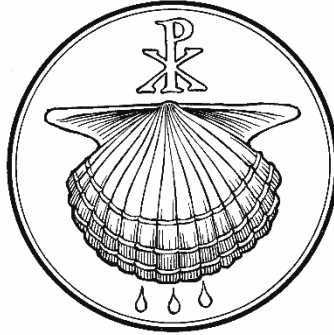
Almighty God, our great Redeemer, in the sacrifice of Your Son You put to death our wretched flesh and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we may always cling to Christ by faith in this life that at the last we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see You face to face; through Jesus Christ,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

C Amen.

Please be seated



SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM



Whenever we remember and rejoice in the gift of our Baptism, it drowns the Old Man (original sin, which produces sins) and lets the New Man (a life of redemption and holiness) rise. In remembering, rehearsing and confessing our baptism, we are forgiven.

Tonight, Confession comes in contrition and repentance, as we reject sin and the devil and grieve that we have gone astray. Absolution then comes to us in celebrating our Baptism, where the Name of the Lord was put on us with the water, making each one of us a child of God and bestowing forgiveness, life and salvation.

The paschal candle is moved to the font to represent our union in Christ's death and resurrection through Holy Baptism.

*The Creed rejoices in the faith of the Church, a faith which all Christians confessed at their Baptism. Here an evergreen bough - **symbolizing** eternal life - is used to sprinkle water on the congregation. This water reminds us that our baptisms - the gift of water and the Word of God - once washed, regenerated, renewed, forgave and saved us!*

*This water from the bough is **not** holy water, **nor** is it a means of grace. Its spray is simply a tactile, concrete **reminder** that one way our Lord chooses to save us is by connecting his Word to material things (flesh and blood at Jesus' birth, water in Holy Baptism, bread and wine at the Holy Supper) and applying these things to us.*

*As the water hits us, we rejoice in the Lord's use of water and His Holy Name - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - remembering that we too were once drawn into the Kingdom of God through "**one Baptism for the remission of sins!**"*

HYMN

Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying

#597

1 Water, blood, and Spirit crying,
By their witness testifying
To the One whose death-defying
Life has come, with life for all.

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.

HYMN

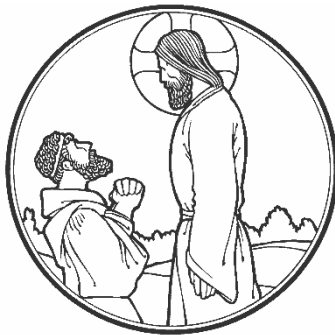
Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying

#597

2 In a wat'ry grave are buried
All our sins that Jesus carried
Christ, the Ark of Life, has ferried
Us across death's raging flood.

Please stand

SERVICE OF PRAYER



In contrast to the Lenten Litany that placed our confidence in the bitter suffering and death of our Suffering Servant Jesus Christ to take away our sins, the Litany of the Resurrection now expresses our certainty and hope in our Lord's victory over death and our union with Him through Baptism into His glorious resurrection.

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 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,

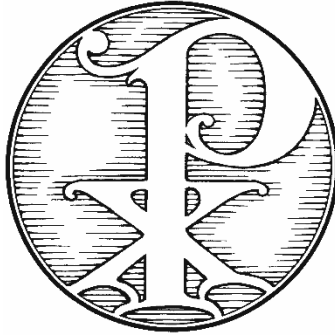
C have mercy.

A O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

Please be seated

SERVICE OF THE WORD



The paschal candle is returned to the Gospel side of the altar.

*The altar candles are lighted from the paschal candle,
and the paraments, books, and holy vessels return as the altar is vested,
preparing for Christ's return in His Holy Supper.*

*In this Supper lies the true body and blood of Christ Himself
for the forgiveness of sins, life, comfort, peace and salvation.*

We now rejoice in Christ's return from death to life.

With Him we are moved from darkness to light, from death to life.

Please stand

HYMN

Christ Is Arisen

#459

*Cantor: Christ is arisen from the grave's dark prison.
So let our joy rise full and free; Christ with comfort true will be. Alleluia!*

*Choir: Were Christ not arisen, then death were still our prison.
Now, with Him to life restored, we praise the Father of our Lord. Alleluia!*

All:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia! Now let our joy rise full and free;
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

P Christ is risen.

C He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

DIGNUS EST



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



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



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



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



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.



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

SALUTATION & COLLECT

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.

READING

Matthew 28:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

HYMN

Christ Is the World's Redeemer

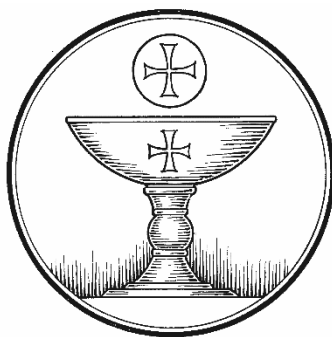
#539

SERMON

The Child



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT



Please stand

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

G And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G 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 give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
✠ Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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

P The peace † of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



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 sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to the pastor are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to the pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail and kneel, crossing one arm over the other in the shape of an 'X'. This symbolizes that one is marked by the cross and Triune name of Almighty God.

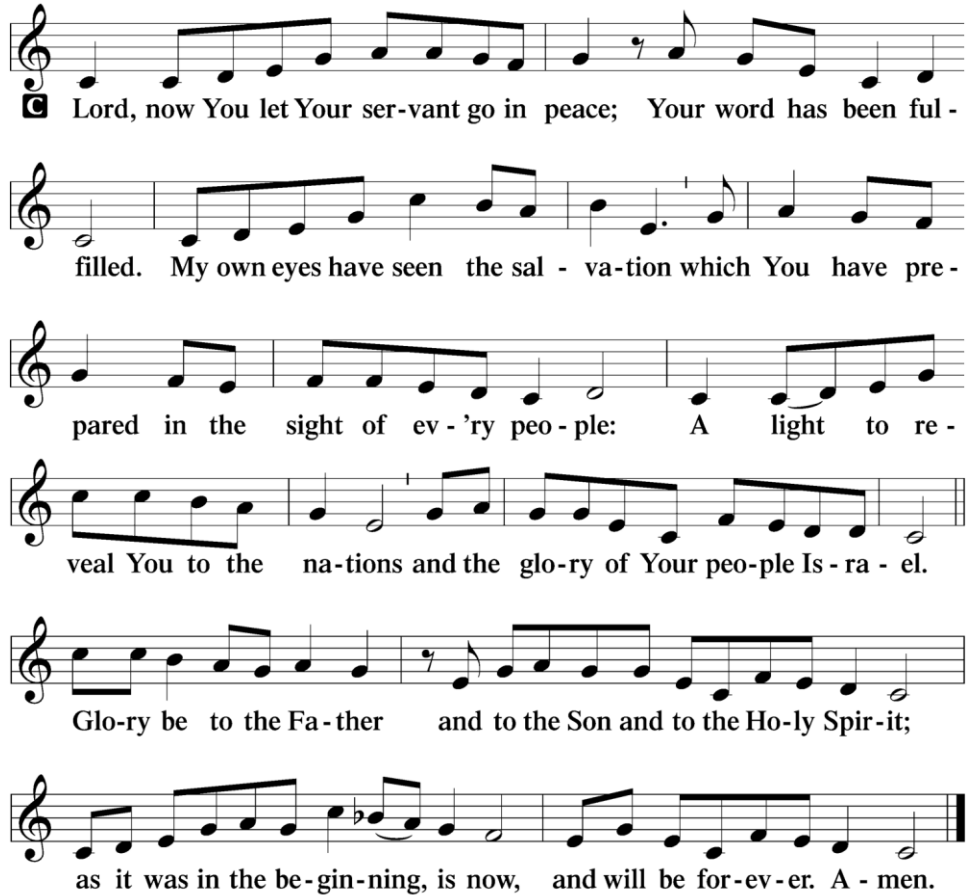
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

**Let All Mortal Flesh
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain**

**#621
#487**

When all have received the Holy Supper, we stand to sing:

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

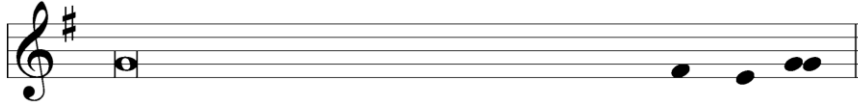
PRAYER

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 A - men.

BENEDICTION



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



HYMN

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

#458

Acknowledgments

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Interpreters: Cathy Brown & Denee Smith

Organist: Sr. Sara Fields

Acolyte: William Held

Crucifer: Keith Martin

Paschal Candle: Eric Held

Censor: James Hansford

Cantors: Rush Agent, Christa Kettler



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