

+ Vigil of Easter +

The new Sanctuary will be consecrated by the Word of the Lord this Holy night. Tomorrow morning, we will bless the Sanctuary at the beginning of the Divine Service.

The congregation gathers in a convenient place outside the nave of the church. Candles are given to all, later to be lighted from the paschal candle. In the semidarkness a fire may be kindled.

+ Service of Light +

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

Invitation

- 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.



Collect

- 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:

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

- 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: "His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever." He puts the five wax nails into the candle, saying: "By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen."

Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, he says: "May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds."

Collect

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

C Amen.

All light their candles from the paschal candle and 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:

Lux Christi, 2 times



A The light of Christ.

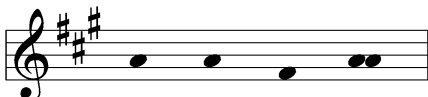


C Thanks be to God.

At the middle of the nave, he chants for the second time...(above)

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 (higher chant tone):

Lux Christi



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).

Exsultet

A Rejoice now, all you heav'nly 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.

Preface Dialogue

P (sung) The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

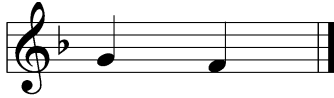
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 A - men.

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 [Note: during the Service of Readings (about 40 mins in length) you may get up in between readings, but reverently, trying not to disturb your neighbors in the congregation who are in prayer and meditation on the Word. Time of brief music or silence in between select readings will be designated as an especially appropriate time for movement.]

+ Service of Readings +

Introduction to 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 Creation

Genesis 1:1–2:3

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

In the beginning, ... 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.**

The Flood

Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

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

Then the LORD said to Noah, ... 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.

Hymn: 632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

The Testing of Abraham

Genesis 22:1–18

A A reading from Genesis, chapter 22.

After these things God tested Abraham ... because you have obeyed my voice.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

Hymn: 590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10–15:1

A A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.

When Pharaoh drew near, ... 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

Isaiah 55:1–11

A A reading from Isaiah, chapter 55.

“Come, everyone who thirsts, ... 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.

Hymn: 583 God Has Spoken by His Prophets

A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24–28

A A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 36.

I will take you from the nations ... 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.

God’s Faithfulness to Israel

Deuteronomy 31:19–30

A A reading from Deuteronomy, chapter 31.

“Now therefore write this song ... through the work of your hands.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray. O God, the exaltation of the humble and the strength of the righteous, You taught Your people through Your holy servant Moses to sing Your sacred songs and

delivered to them the Law that still directs us. Display in all nations the fullness of Your power that, as You blot out all sins through Your forgiveness, terror may turn to joy and fear of punishment may be transformed into the hope of salvation; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Hymn: 585 Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide (stanzas 1-3)

The Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1–14

A A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 37.

The hand of the LORD was upon me, ... and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C Amen.

Job Confesses the Redeemer

Job 19:20–27

A A reading from Job, chapter 19.

My bones stick to my skin ... 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.

Hymn: 644 The Church’s One Foundation (stanzas 1 & 5 only)

Jonah Preaches to Nineveh

Jonah 3:1–10

A A reading from Jonah, chapter three.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah ... and he did not do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray. O God, as the prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The Gathering of God's People

Zephaniah 3:12–20

A A reading from Zephaniah, chapter three.

"I will leave in your midst ... when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

C **Amen.**

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1–30

A A reading from Daniel, chapter three.

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold ... in the province of Babylon.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

C **Amen.**

Hymn: 436 Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

During the hymn, 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 +

Baptism of August Luke Johnson born Feb 8, 2024; Parents: Luke and Blair Johnson;
Sponsors: Austin and Macy Jordan

Baptismal Address

P On this holiest of nights, ...So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Flood Prayer

- P** Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, ... through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

Renunciation

- P** Do you renounce the devil?
C Yes, I renounce him.
P Do you renounce all his works?
C Yes, I renounce them.
P Do you renounce all his ways?
C Yes, I renounce them.

Profession of Faith

- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?
C Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?
C Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
C Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross ... while saying:

Sign of the Cross

- 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:

Naming of the Candidate

- P** How are you named?
R August Luke Johnson.
- P** August do you desire to be baptized?
R Yes, I do.

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

The Baptism

- P** August, 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:

Blessing of the Newly Baptized

- 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.

Presentation of the Baptismal Candle

- 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.

The Peace

- P** Peace † be with you.
C Amen.

Addressing the entire congregation, the pastor says:

Blessing

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

The Peace

- 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.

Hymn: 725 Children of the Heavenly Father

+ Service of Prayer +

Litany of the Resurrection (sit or kneel)

- 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 of Christ's Resurrection +

Stand

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.

This Is the Feast (Setting One)

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9

Refrain

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

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

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

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

Final Refrain

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

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

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

Collect of the Day

- 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

Matthew 27:57–66

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

A brief sermon may be preached.

+ Collect and Benediction +

Collect

- P** (sung) 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.

Benedicamus



A Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



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.

Postlude

*Return in the morning for the Divine Service at 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. with Easter
Breakfast beginning at 9:30 a.m.*

Acknowledgments

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