

Easter Vigil

April 11, 2020

Service of Light

Invocation

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 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.

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.

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

The cross is traced on the paschal candle.

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

The Greek letters Alpha and Omega are traced on the paschal candle.

P the Alpha and the Omega.

The year is traced on the paschal candle.

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

Five nails are traced on the paschal candle.

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

The paschal candle is lit.

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

Collect

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

Lux Christi *☞ Light of Christ*



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

Exsultet *☞ Easter Proclamation*

P 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



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

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.



All extinguish their candles.

Sit

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

After each reading:

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

- P** Let us pray.

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

C **Amen.**

The Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

- P** 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 Testing of Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

- 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 – 15:1

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

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

Ezekiel 36:24-28

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

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.

The Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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

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.

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

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

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.

Service of Holy Baptism

The paschal candle is carried to the baptismal font.

Hymn

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

LSB 594



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



treasures many? I have one worth
 conscience seize me Since my Bap - tism
 font I've traveled, All your might has
 dust and ashes Faith's as - sur - ance
 waits its raising, Still my soul con -



more than any That brought me sal -
 did release me In a dear for -
 come unraveled, And, a - gainst your
 brightly flashes: Bap - tism has the
 tunes praising: I am bap - tized



vation free Last - ing to eter - ni - ty!
 giving flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - anny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

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Baptismal Address

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Flood Prayer

P Let us pray.

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

We pray that You would behold us 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.

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.

Blessing

- P** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
C Amen.

The Peace

- P** Peace ✠ be with you.
C Amen.

The paschal candle is returned to its place.

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 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

Easter Acclamation

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

LSB 465



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has tri - umphed!
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!” Now still He comes to give us
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!” Re - to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!” Al - le -
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing! Al - le -
 say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Al - le -
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

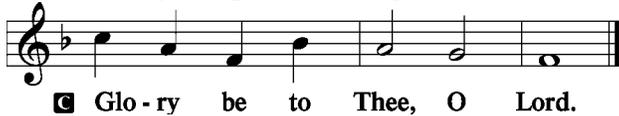
O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,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



Holy Gospel

Mark 16:1—8

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



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. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 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. 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.” 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.



Sit

Sermon

Rev. Chris Hull

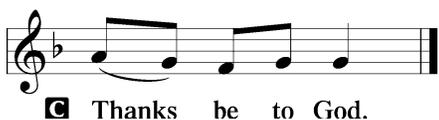
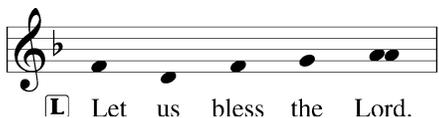
Stand

Concluding Collect

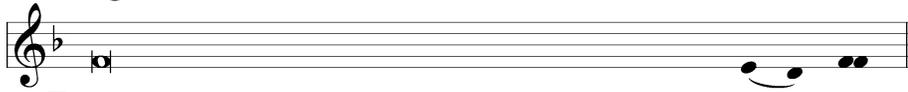
P O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity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



Benedicamus



Blessing



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Hymn

“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

LSB 467



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;
2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed When Christ lay in the tomb;
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!
4 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, Of all their pow'r are shorn;



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.
But lo, he now is rout - ed, His boast is turned to gloom.
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.
Now I am safe from e - vil, And sin I laugh to scorn.



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made
For Christ a - gain is free; In glo - rious vic - to - ry
No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take
Grim death with all its might Can - not my soul af - fright;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.
He who is strong to save Has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.
It is a pow'r - less form, How - e'er it rave and storm.

5 The world against me rages,
Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages,
Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free,
No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play,
And night is bright as day.

6 Now I will cling forever
To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never,
Whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain;
He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall;
I follow Him through all.

7 He brings me to the portal
That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal
Is found in script of gold:
“Who there My cross has shared
Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with Me has died
Shall here be glorified.”

Acknowledgments

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