



EASTER VIGIL

Enter in silence.

The Offerings will be gathered at the door.

VIGIL OF EASTER

NOTHING

The Easter Vigil, also called the Paschal Vigil or the Great Vigil of Easter, is the first official celebration of Christ's resurrection. Frequently, it is during this service that people are baptized and that adult catechumens are received into full communion with the Church. It is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day—most commonly in the evening of Holy Saturday. During the Vigil we get our first glimpse of hope. From the darkness of Good Friday, there bursts forth light from our Savior's empty tomb. From nothing, there comes everything!

Service of Light

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ 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 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.

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.

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

C the beginning and the ending,

P the Alpha and the Omega. His are time and eternity;

C His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

P By His wounds we have healing

C 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.

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.**

Exsultet (sung by Soloist)

Service of Readings

P In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Creation: Genesis 1:1 —2:3

A A reading from Genesis, chapters one and two.

As the reading concludes...

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

P 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.

As the reading concludes...

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

P 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

A A reading from Genesis, chapter 22.

As the reading concludes...

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

P 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

A A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.

As the reading concludes...

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

P 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.**

Jonah Preaches to Nineveh: Jonah 3:1–10

A A reading from Jonah, chapter three.

As the reading concludes...

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

P 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 Fiery Furnace: Daniel 3:1–30

A A reading from Daniel, chapter three.

As the reading concludes...

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

P 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

Remembrance of our own Baptism

601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

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.

P: The almighty God and Father 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.

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

At this point in the service we shift our focus from contemplating Jesus' death and time in the tomb to His victory and resurrection.

Easter Acclamation

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

Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast

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-ty 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 and Collect of the Day

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.

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.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Service of the Sacrament of the Altar

Preface

P The Lord be with you



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts



C We lift them to the Lord.

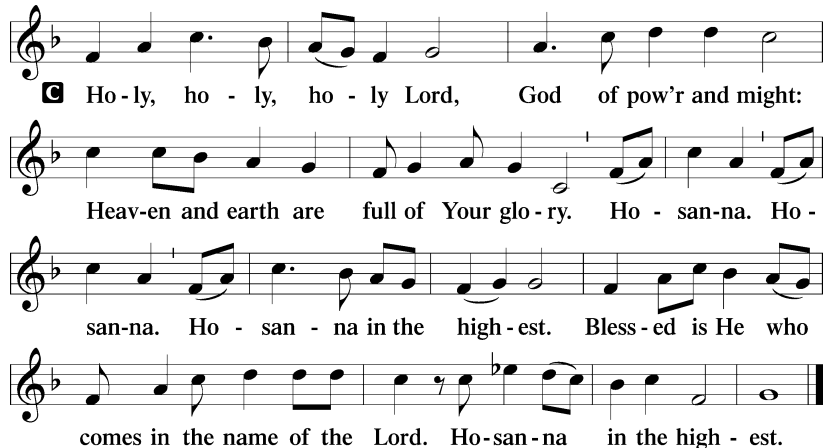
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always

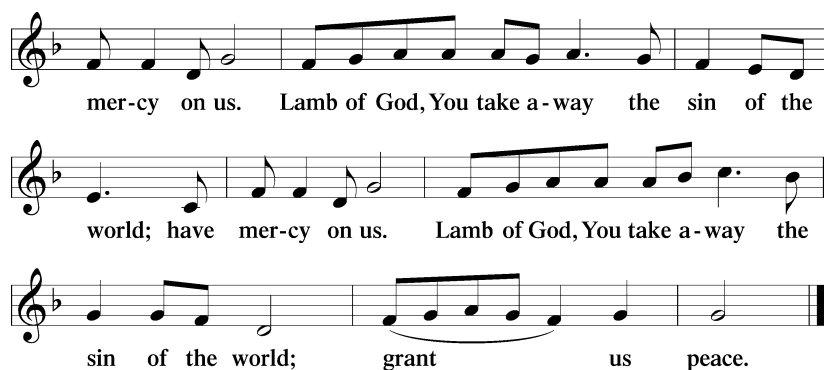


C A - men.

Agnus Dei



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

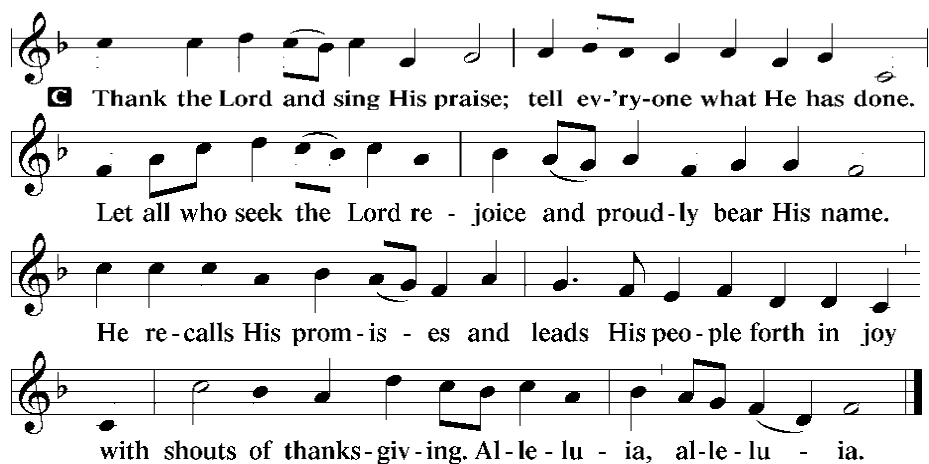


Distribution

Today we are celebrating the Sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ's true body and true blood. Since reception of the Lord's Supper expresses not only fellowship with the Lord, but also fellowship and agreement with the teachings of the Pastor and congregation, we follow the Biblical practice of closed communion. If you are not a current member of Holy Cross or one of our sister LCMS congregations, please speak with Pastor Wright before communing at our altar. We encourage those not receiving communion to come forward and receive a blessing, signifying this by crossing their arms over their chest.

465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Post-Communion Cantic



Post Communion Collect

[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.



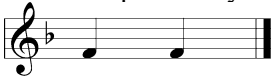
A - men.

[P] Let us bless the Lord



Thanks be to God.

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



A - men.

461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

sts. 1–2, 8

Postlude