

# The Great Vigil of Easter Saturday 7pm – 04/11/2020

*Pray the following order as your ability and family size dictates. Musical notation is provided but you may speak instead. Hymns are provided throughout, with additional selections at the end of the document.*

## + SERVICE OF LIGHT +

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor 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.

Pastor 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.

Congregation **Amen.**

*(The pastor traces the cross on the candle while saying:)*

Pastor 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:)*

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

*(He puts the five wax nails into the candle, saying:)*

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

*(Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, he says:)*

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

Pastor 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.

Congregation **Amen.**

Assistant The light of Christ.  
Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

Assistant The light of Christ.  
Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

Assistant The light of Christ.  
Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

*The assistant chants or speaks the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet).*

Assistant 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**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor 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.

**Congregation Amen.**

*All may extinguish their candles at this time. The paschal candle remains lighted throughout the service. A few lights in the nave may be turned on.*

## **+ SERVICE OF READINGS +**

Pastor 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 has concluded:*

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*And a collect is prayed:*

**A** Let us pray...

**C** **Amen.**

**THE FLOOD**  
**THE TESTING OF ABRAHAM**  
**ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA**  
**SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL**  
**A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT**  
**GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO ISRAEL**  
**THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES**  
**JOB CONFESSES THE REDEEMER**  
**JONAH PREACHES TO NINEVEH**  
**THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**  
**THE FIERY FURNACE**

Genesis 7:1–5; 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13  
 Genesis 22:1–18  
 Exodus 14:10–15:1  
 Isaiah 55:1–11  
 Ezekiel 36:24–28  
 Deuteronomy 31:19–30  
 Ezekiel 37:1–14  
 Job 19:20–27  
 Jonah 3:1–10  
 Zephaniah 3:12–20  
 Daniel 3:1–30

**931 ALL YOU WORKS OF THE LORD**



<sup>1</sup>All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord—\*  
 praise Him and magnify Him for- | ever.\*

You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>2</sup>You heavens, | bless the Lord;\*  
 all you waters above the heavens, | bless the Lord;\*  
 all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>3</sup>You sun and moon, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord;\*  
 all you showers and dew, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>4</sup>All you winds of God, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you fire and heat, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you winter and summer, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>5</sup>You dews and frost, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you frost and cold, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you ice and snow, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>6</sup>You nights and days, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you light and darkness, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you lightnings and clouds, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>7</sup>Let the earth | bless the Lord;\*  
 you mountains and hills, | bless the Lord;\*  
 all you green things that grow on the earth, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>8</sup>You wells and springs, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you rivers and seas, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you whales and all who move in the waters, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>9</sup>All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord;\*  
 all you beasts and cattle, | bless the Lord;\*  
 all you children of men, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>10</sup>O Israel, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord;\*  
 you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

<sup>11</sup>You spirits and souls of the righteous, | bless the Lord;\*  
you pure and humble of heart, | bless the Lord;\*  
let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy | Spirit: **Refrain**

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## + SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM +

Pastor 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.

Pastor 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.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor Do you renounce the devil?

**Congregation Yes, I renounce him.**

Pastor Do you renounce all his works?

**Congregation Yes, I renounce them.**

Pastor Do you renounce all his ways?

**Congregation Yes, I renounce them.**

Pastor Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

**Congregation Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**Congregation 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.**

Pastor Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Congregation 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.**

Pastor 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.  
**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor Peace † be with you.  
**Congregation Amen.**

## + SERVICE OF PRAYER +

### LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

Assistant O Lord,  
**Congregation have mercy.**

Assistant O Christ,  
**Congregation have mercy.**

Assistant O Lord,  
**Congregation have mercy.**

Assistant Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
**Congregation hear us.**

Assistant Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant 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,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant 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,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,  
**Congregation have mercy on us.**

Assistant By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,  
**Congregation good Lord, deliver us.**

Assistant By Your victory over sin and death,  
**Congregation good Lord, deliver us.**

Assistant By the majesty of Your risen body,  
**Congregation good Lord, deliver us.**

Assistant We poor sinners implore You  
**Congregation to hear us, Lord Jesus.**

Assistant That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,  
**Congregation grant us, good Lord.**

Assistant That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,  
**Congregation grant us, good Lord.**

Assistant That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,  
**Congregation grant us, good Lord.**

Assistant Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**Congregation** have mercy on us.  
Assistant Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**Congregation** have mercy on us.  
Assistant Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**Congregation** grant us Your peace.  
Assistant O Lord,  
**Congregation** have mercy.  
Assistant O Christ,  
**Congregation** have mercy.  
Assistant O Lord,  
**Congregation** have mercy. Amen.

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

*(The Vigil continues with a brief service of the Word according to one of the settings of the Divine Service, allowing for the proclamation of the Easter Gospel. The service is abbreviated in the following manner:)*

**EASTER ACCLAMATION**

Pastor Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Congregation 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)**

LSB 155

**Congregation This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain  
has begun His reign.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Pastor The Lord be with you.  
**Congregation And also with you.**

Pastor 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.  
**Congregation Amen.**

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

<sup>57</sup>When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup>He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup>And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup>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. <sup>61</sup>Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup>Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup>and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' <sup>64</sup>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." <sup>65</sup>Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." <sup>66</sup>So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.**

Pastor 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.  
**Congregation Amen.**

Assistant Let us bless the Lord.  
**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.  
**Congregation Amen.**

## 488 HE IS ARISEN! GLORIOUS WORD

1 He is arisen! Glorious Word!  
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
The gates of heav'n are open.  
My Jesus did triumphant die,  
And Satan's arrows broken lie,  
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.  
O hear what cheer!  
Christ victorious,  
Rising glorious,  
Life is giving.  
He was dead but now is living!

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Vigil of Easter from Lutheran Service Book

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