



Easter Eve
April 16, 2022

Tonight we hear the story of how God rescued his people of old. Tonight we wait and watch for our Lord to rescue us from death by his resurrection from the grave.

The vigil service begins in a dimly lighted sanctuary.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Paschal/Easter Candle is lit to help us realize that Jesus, the Light of the world, conquered the darkness of death and hell. He comes among us as our resurrected Lord to give us the light of life.

Please stand.

OPENING PRAYER

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

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

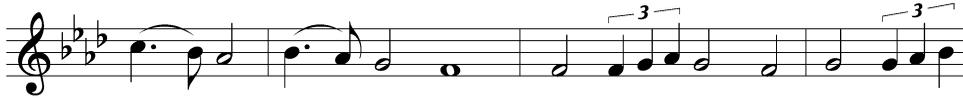
On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death. May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds. Let us pray:

Almighty and most merciful Father, once we were darkness, but now we are light in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Bless abundantly all who joyfully celebrate this night the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill them with your heavenly blessing, in him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with
 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - at - or, to thee



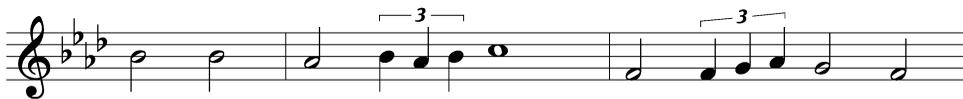
speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
 laud and hon - or be. To thee, Light from Light be -



thank thee while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 got - ten, praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, glo - ry,



thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 glo - ry be to thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 now and ev - er praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right 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 one and only Son, Jesus Christ.

For he is the true 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 this 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.

Amen.

**I am content! My Jesus is my light, My radiant sun of grace.
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all:
Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.
This Easter sun has brought salvation And everlasting exultation.
I am content! I am content!**

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS

CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Let us pray -- Almighty God, you most wonderfully created human nature and yet more wonderfully redeemed it. By your mercy renew us in the image of him who came to share our humanity, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

ISRAEL DELIVERED AT RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-15:1

Let us pray -- O God, you once delivered your people Israel from slavery under Pharaoh and led them safely through the Red Sea. By this you gave us a picture of our Baptism. Lead us always to rejoice in your baptismal promise that we may live in its grace and declare to all people your desire to make them children of Abraham; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

TESTING OF ABRAHAM

Genesis 22:1-18

Let us pray.

O God, you promised to faithful Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, and through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, you increase your chosen people throughout the world. Give to your Church a living trust in all your promises, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SALVATION FREE TO ALL

Isaiah 55:1-11

Let us pray -- Almighty God, you created and sustain all things by the power of your Word. You send forth your Spirit to renew your creation. Give your saving water of life to all who thirst that they may bear much fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

FAITH STRAINED BUT VICTORIOUS

Job 19:20-27

Let us pray – Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son, you brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death to life. Give your servants patience and endurance that, looking in faith to your Son, we may see beyond the trials of this life to the joys of the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

NEW HEART & NEW SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Let us pray – Almighty and everlasting God, in the miracle of Easter you raised your Son for our justification and through him have given us a new heart and spirit. Empower your holy people to show in their lives what they confess with their lips, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

GOD’S PEOPLE GATHERED

Zephaniah 3:12-20

Let us pray -- O Lord, let all the world see that what has been cast down is raised up, what has grown old is made new, and the work you have begun in your faithful people is being brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please stand to sing:

“I Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again” | **Verse 4**

**I am content! Lord, set me ever free
And wake me from the dead
That I may rise forevermore to be
With you, my living head.
The chains that hold my body, sever;
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content!**

Please be seated.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

All the members of the congregation join in the renunciation of the devil and in the profession of faith as a remembrance of their Baptism.

On the eve of Easter, the whole Church of Jesus Christ has the opportunity to recall his death and burial, anticipating the gospel of his glorious resurrection from the dead. Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death and resurrection.

The apostle Paul says: “Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

In Holy Baptism God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

I ask you anew: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

I do renounce them.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

Will you continue steadfast in this baptismal faith and, as a member of the Holy Christian Church, be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer?

Yes, with the help of God.

“All Who Believe and Are Baptized”

**All who believe and are baptized Shall see the Lord’s salvation
Baptized into the death of Christ, They are a new creation.
Through Christ’s redemption they shall stand
Among the glorious heav’nly band Of every tribe and nation.**

**With one accord, O God, we pray; Grant us your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity Through Jesus’ blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may Eternal life inherit.**

All candles are now lit during the hymn, and the sanctuary is fully lighted.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please stand.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

EASTER GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord!
Thanks be to you, O Christ!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the resurrection of our Lord, preserve in all your people the Spirit of adoption which you have given that they may serve you in faith and joy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated and join to sing:

HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Again”



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n a - gain; Christ has bro - ken
2 He who gave for us his life, who for us en -
3 He who bore all pain and loss com - fort - less up -
4 He whose path no rec - ords tell has de - scend - ed



death's strong chain. Hark, the an - gels shout for joy,
dured the strife, is our Pas - chal Lamb to - day.
on the cross lives in glo - ry now on high,
in - to hell; he the strong man armed has bound



sing - ing ev - er - more on high: Hal - le - lu - jah!
We, too, sing for joy and say: Hal - le - lu - jah!
pleads for us, and hears our cry: Hal - le - lu - jah!
and in high - est heav'n is crowned. Hal - le - lu - jah!

**5 He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings
that the Lamb is King of kings.
Hallelujah!**

**6 Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiv'n,
how we, too, may enter heav'n.
Hallelujah!**

Please Stand.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We praise you, heavenly Father, and your Son, Christ our Lord, through whom you have saved and redeemed us. Through him you first created us, and now have still more gloriously rescued us from sin and death.

Oh, the greatness of your love, that you would take our fallen nature to yourself, to fulfill your will, and through suffering, free us from suffering and death!

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks" | Red Hymnal #154

Please use hymnal for this song. We will sing all verses regardless of the length of time for distribution of the sacrament.

Following the distribution the congregation stands.

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who *lives* and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of peace - who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant - make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

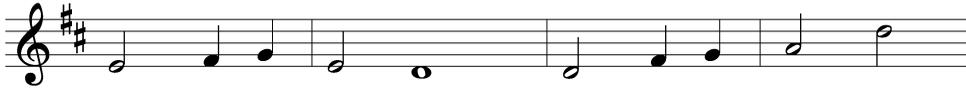
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“With High Delight Let Us Unite”



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in songs of
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth in - to
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks and bring to Christ our



sweet ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, each
life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my shall
Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



take your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion.
van - quished be; his death has been death's un - do - ing.
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion.



To set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
“And yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave,” said
So shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by
Groth's Country Gardens.

Join us tomorrow for Easter worship!

Easter Dawn - 6:00am

Easter Festival - 7:45am or 10:15am

Easter Breakfast served in the school gym from 6:45 - 10:00am