

VIGIL OF EASTER
Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord
and our Baptism

(There is no prelude. The congregation gathers outside the church nave. All are given candles, later to be lighted from the paschal candle.)

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

(In the semi-darkness a fire is kindled.)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the [+] Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: AMEN

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life. 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.

People: AMEN

(The Paschal Candle is prepared for use.)

Pastor: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and Omega.

(The Pastor traces the cross and the Greek letters A and Ω.)

Blessing of the fire and lighting of the candle



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

(The Pastor traces the year upon the candle.)

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

(The five wax nails are put into the candle.)

Pastor: May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter the darkness

of our hearts and minds.
(The Paschal Candle is lit.)

Pastor: Let us pray


Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share the 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.

People: AMEN

(All light their candles from the paschal candle. The procession into the nave begins. The Paschal candle leads the procession into the darkened church.)




A The light of Christ.



G Thanks be to God.




A The light of Christ.



G Thanks be to God.



A The light of Christ.



G Thanks be to God.



The Easter Proclamation *is chanted.*

Rejoice now, all you heavenly 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 the house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.



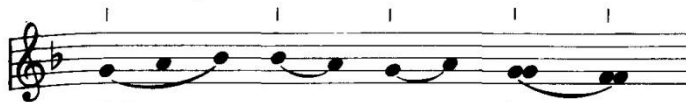
*Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!*



P The Lord be with you.



G And with your spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.



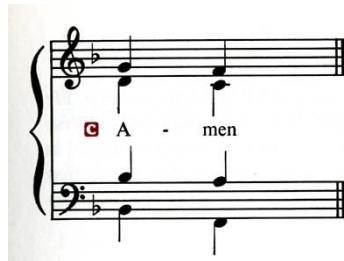
P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



G It is good and right so to do.

(The Pastor, standing before the font, continues the Easter Proclamation.)

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 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.



(The people extinguish their candles and may be seated.)



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.

FIRST READING – The Creation

Pastor: A reading from the 1st and 2nd chapters of Genesis.

(Genesis 1:1-2:2 is read: Pew Bible, p.1-2)

Response: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26



Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for / he is good.
People: HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.

Give thanks to the / God of gods.
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
Give thanks to the / Lord of lords:
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
to him who alone does great / wonders,
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
who by his understanding made the / heavens,
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
who spread out the earth upon the / waters,
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
who made / the great lights—
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
the sun to gov- / ern the day,
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
the moon and stars to gov- / ern the night;
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
to the One who remembered us in our / low estate
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
and freed us from our / enemies,
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
and who gives food to every / creature.
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
Give thanks to the God of / heaven.
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR / EVER.
GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND / TO THE SON*
AND TO THE HOLY / SPIRIT
AS IT WAS IN THE BE / GINNING,*
IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. / AMEN.
Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you most wonderfully created human nature and yet more wonderfully redeemed it. Grant that in your mercy we may be conformed to the image of him who came to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: AMEN

SECOND READING – The Flood

Pastor: A reading from the 7th, 8th, and 9th chapters of Genesis.

(Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13 is read: Pew Bible, p.6-8)

Response: Psalm 46



Pastor: God is our ref- / uge and strength,
an ever-present help in / trouble.

People: THEREFORE WE WILL NOT FEAR, THOUGH THE / EARTH GIVE WAY
AND THE MOUNTAINS FALL INTO THE HEART / OF THE SEA,

though its waters / roar and foam

and the mountains quake with their / surging.

THERE IS A RIVER WHOSE STREAMS MAKE GLAD THE CIT- / Y OF GOD,
THE HOLY PLACE WHERE THE MOST / HIGH DWELLS.

God is within her, she / will not fall;

God will help her at / break of day.

NATIONS ARE IN UPROAR, / KINGDOMS FALL;
HE LIFTS HIS VOICE, THE / EARTH MELTS.

The LORD Almighty is / with us;

the God of Jacob is our / fortress.

COME AND SEE THE WORKS / OF THE LORD,
THE DESOLATIONS HE HAS BROUGHT / ON THE EARTH.

He makes wars cease to the ends / of the earth;

he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the / shields with fire.

“BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT / I AM GOD;

I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS, I WILL BE EXALTED / IN
THE EARTH.”

The LORD Almighty is / with us;

the God of Jacob is our / fortress.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND / TO THE SON*
AND TO THE HOLY / SPIRIT

AS IT WAS IN THE BE / GINNING,*

IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. / AMEN.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, whose wrath burned for the evil of men, you kill and bring to life according to your own purpose; you brought the flood on a wicked and perverse generation yet saved faithful Noah and his family. Open your eyes to behold in mercy your Church that in it your work of mercy may come to its fullness and that the ends of the earth may know your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: AMEN

THIRD READING – Abraham’s Sacrifice of Isaac

Pastor: A reading from the 22nd chapter of Genesis.

*(Genesis 22:1-18 is read:
Pew Bible, p.19-20)*



Response: Psalm 33:1,12-22

Pastor: Sing joyfully to the LORD, you / righteous;*
it is fitting for the upright to / praise him.
Blessed is the nation whose God / is the LORD,*
the people he chose for his in- / heritance.

From heaven the / LORD looks down*
and sees all / mankind;
from his / dwelling place*
he watches all who / live on earth—

People:

HE WHO FORMS THE / HEARTS OF ALL,*
WHO CONSIDERS EVERY- / THING THEY DO.
NO KING IS SAVED BY THE SIZE OF HIS / ARMY;*
NO WARRIOR ESCAPES BY HIS / GREAT STRENGTH.

A HORSE IS A VAIN HOPE FOR DE- / LIVERANCE;*
DESPITE ALL ITS GREAT STRENGTH IT / CANNOT SAVE.
BUT THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THOSE WHO / FEAR HIM,*
ON THOSE WHOSE HOPE IS IN HIS UN- / FAILING LOVE,

TO DELIVER / THEM FROM DEATH*
AND KEEP THEM ALIVE IN / FAMINE.
WE WAIT IN HOPE / FOR THE LORD;*
HE IS OUR HELP / AND OUR SHIELD.

IN HIM OUR / HEARTS REJOICE,*
FOR WE TRUST IN HIS / HOLY NAME.
MAY YOUR UNFAILING LOVE REST UPON / US, O LORD,*
EVEN AS WE PUT OUR / HOPE IN YOU.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND / TO THE SON*

AND TO THE HOLY / SPIRIT
AS IT WAS IN THE BE / GINNING,*
IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. / AMEN.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You promised to faithful Abraham that he would be the father of many peoples, and in the Easter Sacrament of Holy Baptism you raised up for yourself one people. Grant to your Church a hearty trust in all your promises; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: AMEN

FOURTH READING – Israel’s Deliverance at the Red Sea

Pastor: A reading from the 14th chapter of
Exodus.

(Exodus 14:10-15:1 is read: Pew Bible, p.67-68)



Response: “I will sing unto the Lord” (*Cantemus Domino*)
Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18

Pastor: “I will sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed / gloriously!
The horse and its rider He has thrown in- / to the sea!

Right: THE LORD IS MY / STRENGTH AND SONG,
AND HE HAS BECOME MY SAL- / VATION;

Left: He is my God, and I will / praise Him;
My father’s God, and I will ex- / alt Him.

R: THE LORD IS A / MAN OF WAR;
THE LORD / IS HIS NAME.

L: Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast in- / to the sea;
His chosen captains also are drowned in the / Red Sea.

R: THE DEPTHS HAVE / COVERED THEM;
THEY SANK TO THE BOTTOM / LIKE A STONE.

L: “Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in / power;
Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in / pieces.

R: AND IN THE GREATNESS OF YOUR EXCELLENCE YOU HAVE
OVERTHROWN THOSE WHO ROSE A- / GAINST YOU;
YOU SENT FORTH YOUR WRATH; IT CONSUMED THEM LIKE /
STUBBLE.

L: And with the blast of Your nostrils The waters were gathered to- / gether;
The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths congealed in the heart / of the sea.

R: THE ENEMY SAID, ‘I WILL PURSUE, I WILL OVERTAKE, I WILL DI- / VIDE
THE SPOIL;
MY DESIRE SHALL BE SATISFIED ON THEM. I WILL DRAW MY
SWORD, MY HAND SHALL DE- / STROY THEM.’

L: You blew with Your wind, The sea / covered them;
They sank like lead in the mighty / waters.

R: “WHO IS LIKE YOU, O LORD, A- / MONG THE GODS?
 WHO IS LIKE YOU, GLORIOUS IN HOLINESS, FEARFUL IN PRAISES,
 DOING / WONDERS?
 L: You stretched out / Your right hand;
 The earth / swal- / lowed them.
 R: YOU IN YOUR MERCY HAVE LED FORTH THE PEOPLE WHOM YOU /
 HAVE REDEEMED;
 YOU HAVE GUIDED THEM IN YOUR STRENGTH TO YOUR HOLY HABI-
 / TATION.
 L: You will bring them in and / plant them
 In the mountain of Your in- / heritance,
 R: IN THE PLACE, O LORD, WHICH YOU HAVE MADE FOR YOUR OWN
 DWELLING, THE SANCTUARY, O LORD, WHICH YOUR HANDS HAVE E- /
 STABLISHED.
 “THE LORD SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND / EVER.”

Left & Right:
 GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND / TO THE SON*
 AND TO THE HOLY / SPIRIT
 AS IT WAS IN THE BE / GINNING,*
 IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. / AMEN.

Pastor: Let us pray.
 O God, you once delivered your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them
 in safety through the Red Sea, thereby giving us a picture of our Baptism. Grant that we
 may ever be faithful to your baptismal promise, live in its grace, and show forth to all
 people your desire that all should be made the children of Abraham; through Jesus Christ,
 our Lord.

People: AMEN

FIFTH READING – The Everlasting Covenant

Pastor: A reading from the 55th chapter of
 Isaiah.

(Isaiah 55:1-11 is read: Pew Bible, p.733)



Response: Isaiah 12:2-6 (*Ecce, Deus*)

Pastor: Surely God is my sal- / vation;
 I will trust and not / be afraid.
People: THE LORD, THE LORD, IS MY STRENGTH / AND MY SONG;
 HE HAS BECOME MY SAL- / VATION.”
 WITH JOY YOU WILL DRAW / WATER
 FROM THE WELLS OF SAL- / VATION.
 IN THAT DAY / YOU WILL SAY:
 “GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, CALL / ON HIS NAME;

MAKE KNOWN AMONG THE NATIONS WHAT / HE HAS DONE,
 AND PROCLAIM THAT HIS NAME IS EX- / ALTED.
 SING TO THE LORD, FOR HE HAS DONE / GLORIOUS THINGS;
 LET THIS BE KNOWN TO / ALL THE WORLD.
 SHOUT ALOUD AND SING FOR JOY, PEOPLE OF / ZION,
 FOR GREAT IS THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL A- / MONG YOU.”
 GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND / TO THE SON*
 AND TO THE HOLY / SPIRIT
 AS IT WAS IN THE BE / GINNING,*
 IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. / AMEN.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the power of your Word all things were created and are sustained; you send forth your Spirit to 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.

People: AMEN

SIXTH READING - The Wisdom of God

Pastor: A reading from the 8th and 9th chapters of Proverbs.

(Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 is read: Pew Bible, p.631-633)

Response: Psalm 19:7-10



Pastor: The law of the LORD is perfect,
 reviv- / ing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the / simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy / to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light / to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for- / ever.

The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether / righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than / much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey, than honey / from the comb.

People:

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND / TO THE SON*

AND TO THE HOLY / SPIRIT

AS IT WAS IN THE BE / GINNING,*

IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. / AMEN.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, you increase your Church by continuing to call all people to salvation. Let the cleansing waters of Baptism flow, and by your love watch over those whom you have called; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: AMEN

SEVENTH READING – A New Heart and a New Spirit

Pastor: A reading from the 36th chapter of Ezekiel.

(Ezekiel 36:24-28 is read:

Pew Bible, p. 857)



Response: Psalm 42:1-7 and
Psalm 43

Pastor: As the deer pants for streams of / water,
so my soul pants for / you, O God.

People: MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR GOD, FOR THE / LIVING GOD.
WHEN CAN I GO AND / MEET WITH GOD?

My tears have been my food / day and night,
while men say to me all day long, “Where / is your God?”

THESE THINGS I REMEMBER AS I POUR / OUT MY SOUL:
HOW I USED TO GO WITH THE MULTITUDE, LEADING THE
PROCESSION TO THE / HOUSE OF GOD,

with shouts of joy and thanks- / giving
among the / festive throng.

WHY ARE YOU DOWNCAST, / O MY SOUL?
WHY SO DISTURBED WITH- / IN ME?

Put your / hope in God,
for I will yet praise him, my Savior / and my God.

MY SOUL IS DOWNCAST WITH- / IN ME;
THEREFORE I WILL REMEMBER YOU FROM THE LAND OF THE
JORDAN, THE HEIGHTS OF HERMON—FROM MOUNT / MIZAR.

Deep calls to deep in the roar of your / waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers have swept / over me.

VINDICATE ME, O GOD, AND PLEAD MY CAUSE AGAINST AN UNGODLY /
NATION;

RESCUE ME FROM DECEITFUL AND / WICKED MEN.

You are God my stronghold. Why have you re- / jected me?

Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the / enemy?

SEND FORTH YOUR LIGHT AND YOUR TRUTH, LET THEM / GUIDE ME;
LET THEM BRING ME TO YOUR HOLY MOUNTAIN, TO THE PLACE /
WHERE YOU DWELL.

Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and / my delight.

I will praise you with the harp, O / God, my God.

WHY ARE YOU DOWNCAST, / O MY SOUL?
WHY SO DISTURBED WITH- / IN ME?

Put your / hope in God,
for I will yet praise him, my Savior / and my God.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND / TO THE SON*
AND TO THE HOLY / SPIRIT

AS IT WAS IN THE BE / GINNING,*
IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. / AMEN.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in the miracle of Easter you raised your Son for our justification. Grant that all who are brought to new birth and 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.

People: AMEN

EIGHTH READING – The Valley of Dry Bones

Pastor: A reading from the 37th chapter of Ezekiel.

(Ezekiel 37:1-14 is read: Pew Bible, p. 857-858)



Response: Psalm 30

Pastor: I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out / of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat / over me.

Pastor: O LORD my God, I called to / you for help
and you / healed me.

Men: O LORD, YOU BROUGHT ME UP / FROM THE GRAVE;
YOU SPARED ME FROM GOING DOWN IN- / TO THE PIT.

Women: Sing to the LORD, you / saints of his;
praise his / holy name.

M: For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a / lifetime;
weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the / morning.

W: When I felt se- / cure, I said,
“I will never be / shaken.”

M: O LORD, when you favored me, you made my mountain / stand firm;
but when you hid your face, I / was dismayed.

W: To you, O / LORD, I called;
to the Lord I cried for / mercy:

M: “What gain is there in my destruction, in my going down in- / to the pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your / faithfulness?”

W: Hear, O LORD, and be merci- / ful to me;
O LORD, / be my help.”

M: You turned my wailing into / dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed / me with joy,

W: that my heart may sing to you and not be / silent.
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for- / ever.

All:

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND / TO THE SON*
AND TO THE HOLY / SPIRIT
AS IT WAS IN THE BE / GINNING,*
IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. / AMEN.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, by the Passover of the Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Give us such an understanding of your mercy that, in receiving the gifts of Word and Sacrament now, we may learn to hope for all your gifts to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: AMEN

NINTH READING – The Gathering of God’s People

Pastor: A reading from the 3rd chapter of Zephaniah.

(Zephaniah 3:12-20 is read: Pew Bible, p.935-936)



Response: Psalm 126

Pastor: When the LORD brought back the captives to / Zion,
we were like / men who dreamed.

People:

OUR MOUTHS WERE FILLED WITH / LAUGHTER,
OUR TONGUES WITH / SONGS OF JOY.
THEN IT WAS SAID AMONG THE / NATIONS,
“THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT / THINGS FOR THEM.”
THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT / THINGS FOR US,
AND WE ARE / FILLED WITH JOY.
RESTORE OUR FOR- / TUNES, O LORD,
LIKE STREAMS IN THE / NEGEV.
THOSE WHO / SOW IN TEARS
WILL REAP WITH / SONGS OF JOY.
HE WHO GOES OUT WEEPING, CARRYING / SEED TO SOW,
WILL RETURN WITH SONGS OF JOY, CARRYING / SHEAVES WITH
HIM.
GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND / TO THE SON*
AND TO THE HOLY / SPIRIT
AS IT WAS IN THE BE / GINNING,*
IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER. / AMEN.

Pastor: 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 them. Let all the world see and know that what has been cast down is raised up, what has grown old is made new, and that the work you have begun in us 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.

People: AMEN

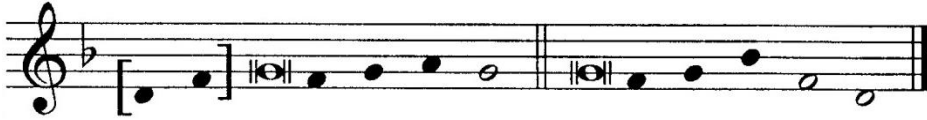
TENTH READING – The Repentance of Nineveh

Pastor: A reading from the 3rd chapter of Jonah.

(Jonah 3:1-10 is read: Pew Bible, p. 917)

Response: Jonah 2:1-3, 7-9

Tone IV



Pastor: “In my distress I / called to the LORD,
and / he answered me-.

From the depths of the grave / I called for help,
and you / listened to my cry.

You hurled me / into the deep,
into the very / heart of the seas-,

and the currents / swirled about me;
all your waves and breakers / swept over me-.

“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered / you-, O LORD-,
and my prayer rose to you, to / your holy temple.

“Those who cling to / worthless idols
forfeit the grace / that could be theirs-.

But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacri- / fice- to you.

What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation / comes from the LORD-.”

People:

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER / AND TO THE SON*
AND TO / THE HOLY SPIRIT

AS IT WAS IN / THE BEGINNING,*
IS NOW, AND WILL BE / FOREVER. AMEN.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, you have united all nations in the confession of your name. Now give us the will and the power to do what you command, that the faith of the people whom you call to everlasting life may direct their speech and actions; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: AMEN

ELEVENTH READING – The Song of Moses

Pastor: A reading from the 31st chapter of Deuteronomy.

(Deuteronomy 31:19-30 is read: Pew Bible, p. 202)

Response: Deut 32:1-4, 7, 36a, 43a (*Attende caelum*) “Give ear to what I say”

Tone IV



Pastor: Listen, O heavens, / and I will speak;
hear, O earth, the / words of my mouth.

People:

LET MY TEACHING / FALL LIKE- RAIN
AND MY WORDS / DESCEND LIKE DEW-,
LIKE SHOWERS / ON NEW- GRASS,
LIKE ABUNDANT RAIN / ON TENDER PLANTS-.
I WILL PROCLAIM THE / NAME OF THE LORD.
OH, PRAISE THE / GREATNESS OF OUR GOD!
HE IS THE ROCK, HIS / WORKS ARE PERFECT,
AND ALL / HIS WAYS ARE JUST-.
A FAITHFUL GOD / WHO DOES NO WRONG,
UPRIGHT / AND JUST IS HE-.
REMEMBER / THE DAYS OF OLD;
CONSIDER THE GENE- / RATIONS LONG PAST-.
ASK YOUR FATHER AND / HE WILL TELL YOU,
YOUR ELDERS, AND THEY / WILL EXPLAIN TO YOU.
THE LORD WILL / JUDGE HIS PEOPLE
AND HAVE COMPASSION / ON- HIS SERVANTS
REJOICE, O NATIONS, / WITH HIS PEOPLE,
FOR HE WILL AVENGE THE / BLOOD OF HIS SERVANTS;
GLORY BE TO THE FATHER / AND TO THE SON*
AND TO / THE HOLY SPIRIT
AS IT WAS IN / THE BEGINNING,*
IS NOW, AND WILL BE / FOREVER. AMEN.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, exaltation of the humble and strength of the righteous: You taught your people through Moses to sing your praise, that the law which he delivered to them might be helpful to us. Show your power among the nations that, in the forgiveness of sins, terror may turn to joy, and fear of retribution to salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: AMEN

TWELFTH READING – The Fiery Furnace

Pastor: A reading from the 3rd chapter of Daniel.

(Daniel 3:1-29 is read: Pew Bible, p. 875-877)

Stand

Response: Hymn #914 “All You Works of God, Bless the Lord” (*Benedicite, omnia opera*)

From the Song of the Three Young Men

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

The assisting minister carries the paschal candle to the font and places it in its stand.

PRESENTATION

Candidates for baptism and their sponsors gather at the font.

A sponsor for each candidate presents the candidate with these or similar words:

I present [name] to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The minister addresses those candidates who are able to answer for themselves:

P. [Name], do you desire to be baptized?

R. I do.

The minister addresses the parents of infants and young children:

P. Who brings this child to be baptized?

R. We do.

ADDRESS TO CANDIDATES AND SPONSORS

When adults or older children are baptized, the minister address the sponsors:

P. In Christian love you have presented [this person/these people] for Holy Baptism.

You should, therefore, faithfully care for *them* and help *them* in every way as God gives you opportunity, that *they* may bear witness to the faith we profess, and that, living in the covenant of *their* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *they* may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ.

P. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

The parents and sponsors respond:

R. I do.

If there are also infants or young children to be baptized, the minister addresses the sponsors and parents:

P. In Christian love you have presented [this child/these children] for Holy Baptism.

You should, therefore, faithfully bring *them* to the services of God's house, and teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As *they* grow in years, you should place in *their* hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for *their* instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of *their* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *they* may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ.

Stand

THANKSGIVING

The minister begins the thanksgiving.

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And with your spirit.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P. Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth.

By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family.

You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the Promised Land.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth.

In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are [here] baptized may be given new life.

Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C. Amen

RENUNCIATION AND PROFESSION

The minister addresses the baptismal group, those baptized who wish to profess their faith, and the congregation.

P. I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P. Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

C. I do.

P. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**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. 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. 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. Amen**

Sit

BAPTISM

The minister baptizes each candidate.

The minister pours water three times on the head of the candidate, saying.

P. [Name], I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

HYMN #225, "All Who Believe and
Are Baptized"

BLESSING

*Those who have been baptized
kneel. Sponsors or parents holding
young children stand. The minister
lays both hands on the head of each
of the baptized and prays for the
Holy Spirit:*

P. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, we give you thanks for
freeing your sons and daughters
from the power of sin and for raising
them up to a new life through this
holy sacrament.

C. Amen



*Born again in Christ by baptism
you have become members of
Christ and of his priestly people*

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

*The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized.
Oil prepared for this purpose may be used.*

As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

P. [Name], child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the + cross of Christ forever.

R. Amen

CLOTHING WITH A BAPTISMAL GARMENT

A white garment may be given to each of the newly baptized.

Receive this white garment to show that Christ has taken away and borne your sin and put upon you his perfect righteousness. So shall you in faith ever stand before him.

GIVING OF THE LIGHT

A lighted candle may be given to each of the baptized (to the sponsor of a young child).

Receive this burning light. Live always by the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for his coming that you may meet him with joy and enter with him to the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom, which shall have no end.

LAYING ON OF HANDS (Confirmation)

Those who have been baptized and taught the faith, now confess that faith and are welcomed into Christian fellowship to share in all the gifts our Lord has for His Church.

A sponsor gives a lighted candle to the confirmand and says to the pastor:

I present [names] to acknowledge the gifts which God gave [them/her/him] in holy Baptism.



P. Having just renounced the devil and confessed the Christian faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed, I ask you: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R. I do so intend with the help of God.

P. Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R. I do.

P. Do you desire to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation?

R. I do.

P. Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and sacraments, which are his means of grace and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R. I do so intend by the grace of God.

As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

P. [name], child of God, in your baptism you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the ✠ cross of Christ forever.

R. Amen.

The minister lays both hands on each of the confirmands.

P. [name], God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

P. Upon this your profession and promise I invite and welcome you, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation, to share with us in all the gifts our Lord has for his Church and to live them out continually in his worship and service.

A confirmation verse is spoken by the minister.

Stand

PRAYERS

The minister, the baptized and the confirmed go before the altar.

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray:

Almighty and merciful God and Father, we thank and praise you that you graciously preserve and enlarge your family and have granted [names] the new birth in Holy Baptism and made [him/her] a member of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of your heavenly kingdom. Keep [him/her] in [his/her] baptismal grace that according to your good pleasure [he/she] may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of your holy name and finally with all your saints obtain the promises inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C. Amen

P. Lord God, we thank you for enabling [names] to both with the heart believe and with the mouth to confess Your saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day what all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

A SHORT BREAK.

At this point the Service of Holy Communion will be prepared by the pastor and his assistants. The newly baptized join the congregation. As the organ plays, any signs of the Holy Week observances are removed. Those who need a restroom break(downstairs), or simply wish to stand and stretch will have about 5 to 10 minutes, before the litany begins. There is also water available in the narthex.

Stand
LITANY

A LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Be gra - cious to us. Hear us, O God.
De - liv - er your people. Hear us, O God.

You loved us before the world was made: Hear us, O God.
You rescued the people of your promise: Hear us, O God.
You spoke through your prophets: Hear us, O God.
You gave your only Son for the life of the world: Hear us, O God.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: Great is your love.
and was born of the vir - gin Mary: Great is your love.
who by his cross and suffering re - deemed the world: Great is your love.
and has washed us from our sins: Great is your love.
who on the third day rose from the dead: Great is your love.
and has given us the vic - to - ry: Great is your love.
who ascend - ed on high: Great is your love.
and intercedes for us at the right hand of God: Great is your love.

For the gift of the Ho - ly Spirit: Thanks be to God.
For the one holy, catholic, and apos - tol - ic church: Thanks be to God.
For the great cloud of witnesses into which we are bap-tized. Thanks be to God.

For Sarah and Abraham, Isaac and Re-bekah: Thanks be to God.
For Gideon and Deborah, Da - vid and Esther: Thanks be to God.
For Moses and Isaiah, Jeremi - ah and Daniel: Thanks be to God.
For Miriam and Rahab, Abi - gail and Ruth: Thanks be to God.



For Mary, mother of our Lord: **Thanks be to God.**
For John, who baptized in the Jordan: **Thanks be to God.**
For Mary Magdalene and Joanna, Ma - ry and Martha: **Thanks be to God.**
For James and John, Pe - ter and Andrew: **Thanks be to God.**
For Paul and Apollos, Ste - phen and Phoebe: **Thanks be to God.**



For all holy men and women, our mothers and fa - thers in faith: **Thanks be to God.**
For the noble band of the prophets: **Thanks be to God.**
For the glorious company of the a - postles: **Thanks be to God.**
For the white-robed ar - my of martyrs: **Thanks be to God.**
For cherubim and seraphim, Michael and the ho - ly angels: **Thanks be to God.**



Be gra - cious to us: **Hear us, O God.**
De - liv - er your people: **Hear us, O God.**



Give new life to these chosen ones by the grace of baptism: **Hear us, O God.**
Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross: **Hear us, O God.**
Clothe us in compas - sion and love: **Hear us, O God.**
Bring us with all your saints to the riv - er of life: **Hear us, O God.**



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

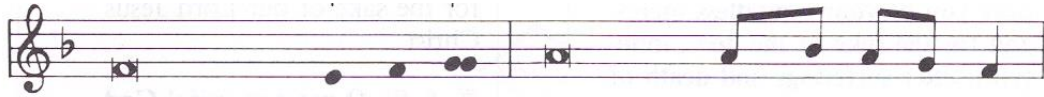
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The altar candles may now be lighted from the paschal candle. The lights in the church are turned on, the bells may be rung, and the pastor says:

P. Alleluia. Christ is risen.

C. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Gloria in Excelsis



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good will toward men.



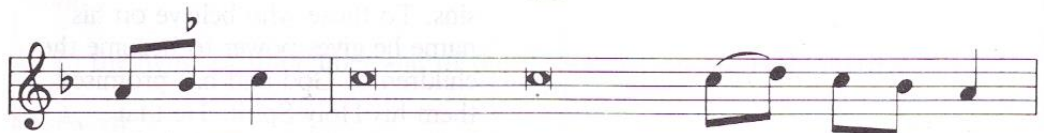
We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you, we give you



thanks for your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n - ly King,



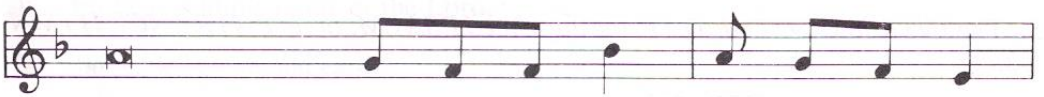
God the Fa - ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son,



Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



who takes away the sin of the world, have mer - cy;



who takes away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer;



who sits at the right hand of God the Father, have mer - cy.



For you on - ly are holy; you on - ly are the Lord;

you only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the

glo - ry of God the Father. A - men

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spir - it.

P. O God, who enlightened this most holy night with the glory of the Lord's resurrection, preserve in all Your people the spirit of adoption which You have given, so that, made alive in body and soul, they may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men

sit

Epistle

Pastor: The Epistle for the Resurrection of our Lord is from the third chapter of Colossians.

(Colossians 3:1-4 is read: Pew Bible, p. 1167)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

Stand

Sequence Hymn - Hymn #124 Christ is Arisen

Holy Gospel

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

(St. Mathew 28:1-10 is read: Pew Bible, p. 989)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord



Praise to you, O Christ.

Nicene Creed, p.141 *(It is omitted, if the Apostles' Creed was used in Baptismal service)*

Hymn of the Day - #141 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Sermon

Offering

Offertory

"He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!" -second line for "Easter"

Hymn #520

[The order of the Communion Service is found on next page.]

Ending of the 2021 Easter Vigil

The Prayers

Offering

Offertory

“He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!”
-second line for “Easter”

Hymn #520

The Communion Liturgy..... Page 144

Preface

Sanctus “Holy, holy holy...”

Eucharistic Prayer Page 149

Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Peace

Agnus Dei “Lamb of God...”..... Page 151

Distribution

Communion Psalm: Sung by Cantor

Antiphon: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Psalm 150.

Distribution Hymns

#139, “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

Post-Communion Canticle

“Lord, now let your servant”.....

Page 152

Post-Communion Prayer.....

Page 153-154

Benedicamus, Benediction.....

Page 153



The Risen Christ