

VIGIL OF EASTER

Candles are given to all, later to be lighted from the paschal candle. In the semidarkness a fire may be kindled.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

P 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.

P Let us pray.
O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The pastor traces the cross on the candle while saying:

P 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:

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

He points to the five wax nails in the candle, saying:

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

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

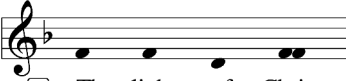
May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

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.

All light their candles from the paschal candle and then follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church.

At the entrance of the nave, the bearer of the paschal candle stops and chants:




A The light of Christ.




C Thanks be to God.

When the candle bearer reaches the middle of the nave, he chants for the second time:




A The light of Christ.




C Thanks be to God.

When the candle bearer arrives at the candle stand, he turns to face the congregation. After all have reached their places, the candle bearer lifts the candle high and chants the third time:



A The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.

After the candle bearer places the paschal candle in its stand, the assistant turns to face the people and chants or speaks the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet).

- A** 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.

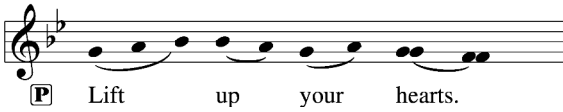
Preface Dialogue



P The Lord be with you.



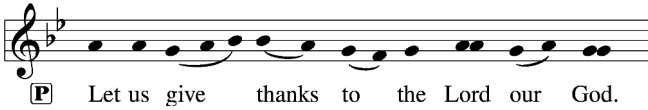
C And also with you.



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.

Easter Proclamation

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood. This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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

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

Hymn: 578 Thy Strong Word

LSB 578, sts. 1, 4

The Flood

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

Psalm 29

Psalm 29

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-15:1

Canticle: 925 Song of Moses and Israel

LSB 925

The Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Hymn 834: O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth

LSB 834

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-30

Canticle: 931 All You Works of the Lord

LSB 931

During the canticle, the candle bearer carries the paschal candle to the font, followed by the pastor.

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

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.

If there are candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, or Reception of into membership, the appropriate rite takes place here.

P 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.

C Amen.

P Peace † be with you.

C Amen.

Following the Service of Holy Baptism, the paschal candle is placed back in its stand, and the ministers return to their earlier stations.

Hymn: 594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

LSB 595

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 others as we have been served by You, **C** grant us, good Lord.
- A** That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints, **C** grant us, good Lord.
- A** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** have mercy on us.
- A** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** have mercy on us.
- A** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** grant us Your peace.
- A** O Lord, **C** have mercy.
- A** O Christ, **C** have mercy.
- A** O Lord, **C** have mercy. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Easter Acclamation

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

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)
Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 155
LSB 156

Holy Gospel

John 20:1–18

A brief sermon may be preached.

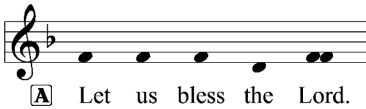
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (SETTING ONE)

Preface

LSB 160

Distribution Hymn 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won *LSB 490*
Distribution Hymn 489 Hail Thee, Festival Day *LSB 489*

Post-Communion Collect
Blessing



Hymn: 481 Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom

LSB 481

Acknowledgments

Vigil of Easter from Lutheran Service Book

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