

VIGIL OF EASTER

April 19, 2025

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 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, the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and Omega. (The cross and the Alpha and Omega are traced.)

P: His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever. (The year is traced.)

P: By his wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen (The 5 nails are traced.)

THE PASCHAL CANDLE IS LIT

(The Paschal Candle is lit from the one candle that remained burning since the conclusion of the Tenebrae service on Good Friday.)

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.

EXTENDING OF THE LIGHT

P: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Each time the light is passed, the person giving the light will say “**The light of Christ.**” And the person receiving it will say: “**Thanks be to God.**”)

P: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

P: Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels;

C: Rejoice now, all creation;

P: Sound forth; trumpet of salvation,

C: And proclaim the triumph of our King.

P: Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you

C: And made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King;

P: Know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished.

C: Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light;

P: Let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing,

C: With the praises of all God’s faithful people.

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.

P: It is truly good, right and salutary...

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. (Candles are extinguished and some lights are turned on.)

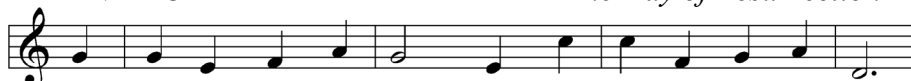
SERVICE OF READINGS

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.

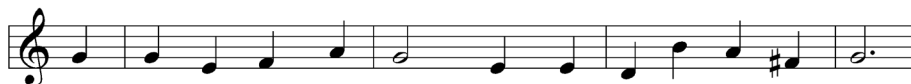
DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA Exodus 14:10—15:1; p. 71

P: Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

HYMN #478*"The Day of Resurrection"*

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,



The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.
 The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light
 Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,
 And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
 His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
 For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

JOB CONFESSES THE REDEEMER**Job 19:20-27 p. 544****P:** Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**C:** Amen**HYMN #456***"Were You There"*

3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you
 4 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb? Were you



there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...
 there when God raised Him from the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

Text and tune: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL Isaiah 55:1-5 p. 782

P: Let us pray... one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

HYMN #435

"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

HOMILY "He Has Triumphed Gloriously" Exodus 14:10-15:1

(The offering is received in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.)

(The candles are relit for the Service of Holy Baptism.)

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL COMMAND

Matthew 28:18-20

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

C: Yes, I renounce them.

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: 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.

THE BAPTISM OF JASMINE RENEE JEROME

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

THE ENROLLMENT OF SPONSORS

THE LORD'S PRAYER
 THE RITE OF BAPTISM
 THE CANDLE
 THE BAPTISMAL PRAYER

BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

P: Having renounced the devil and all his works and ways and confessed your faith in the Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I ask you: is it your earnest purpose to continue steadfast in this faith and in the promise of your Baptism and, as a member of the Church, to be diligent in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

C: Yes, with the help of God.

P: You are a baptized child of God! Almighty God, the 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, for you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

C: Amen. (The candles are extinguished.)

HYMN #590

"Baptized into Your Name Most Holy"



1 Bap-tized in - to Your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and
 4 All that I am and love most dear-ly— Re - ceive it all, O



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
 Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;



A - mong Your saints, Your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
 Help me Your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I



dead to sin, Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
 am or own Serve an - y will but Yours a - lone.

Text: Johann Jacob Rambach, 1693–1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697–1775

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

(All lights are turned on and the bell is rung, symbolizing Christ's resurrection.)

P: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE OF EASTER

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

THE EASTER GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-8

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.

P: Let us pray to the Lord. 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, 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

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

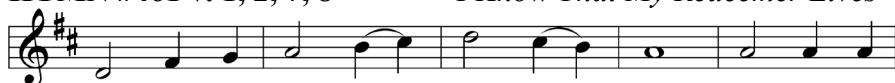
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

P: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

HYMN #461 v. 1, 2, 7, 8*"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"*

1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
 7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; He lives, and
 8 He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives, my



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
 I shall con - quer death; He lives my man - sion
 Je - sus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 to pre - pare; He lives to bring me safe - ly there.
 sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793

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THE EASTER VIGIL

This service is a Vigil, meaning that it has a reflective character. The lights are dimmed. We are waiting and pondering during this time that our Lord lay in the tomb. But the call of Easter is strong and as the service progresses there is a transition to the joy of Easter.

THE TRIDUUM

The services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday form the Triduum, The Great Three Days. These services, in a sense, form one great continued service. The Invocation is spoken only on Maundy Thursday and the Benediction is spoken only at the close of the service this evening. The Triduum highlights the Passover, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. At these services the accent is on freedom out of slavery, life out of death and light out of darkness.

THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The word *paschal* comes from the word *pesach or pascha*, the Feast of the Passover in the Old Testament, which now is applied to the Feast of Easter in the New Testament. The paschal candle is a large candle symbolizing our Lord's resurrection and His visible presence here on earth among His people during the 40 days until His Ascension.

The paschal candle is used as a sign of the resurrection, therefore it is used also at baptisms and funerals as a sign of dying and rising with Christ. During Easter its place is near the pulpit, outside of Easter its place is near the baptismal font.

BAPTISM AND THE EASTER VIGIL

In the early church lent was the time for the final, intense catechesis or instruction of those who wanted to join the church. These catechumens were then baptized at the Easter Vigil so that they might celebrate Easter and receive Holy Communion as members of the church. Even though the baptism of adults is now done throughout the year, the Easter Vigil retains a baptismal emphasis and is a time for renewal of one's baptismal vows. The practice in some churches of having confirmation on Palm Sunday stems from the practice of baptism at the Easter Vigil and the desire of the church to welcome its new members in time for Easter.

EASTER CELEBRATION

Join us tomorrow morning as we celebrate the full glory of our Lord's resurrection. At 7:00 AM our Easter Sunrise Service includes instrumental music for our Easter hymns, ACT members helping to lead our worship, and the Easter message.

At 9:00 AM we worship our risen Lord, with instrumental accompaniment for our hymns. "Alleluias" will return in full strength to our liturgy. We will rejoice in the Easter message as it is sung, read and proclaimed, and we receive a foretaste of the heavenly feast in Holy Communion.