

# THE VIGIL OF EASTER

**GLORY OF CHRIST**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

APRIL 20, 2019 ✝ 7:00 P.M.

# Easter Vigil

A vigil is a time to stay awake, to keep watch.

We have been keeping vigil since they laid our Savior's body in the tomb Friday afternoon. After all, how could we sleep while our Lord lay dead? All His promises hang in the balance. A dead prophet cannot speak. A dead priest cannot intercede. A dead king cannot reign. A dead savior cannot save. So we have kept our vigil, waiting eagerly in the hopes that the Father will act.

And He does.

In the Jewish reckoning of days, the next day begins at sundown, so our vigil ends tonight and our resurrection celebration begins. This evening rings with the story of death to life again and again. Israel is brought from death to life through the waters of the Red Sea. We are brought from death to life through the baptism that the Red Sea foreshadows. But most of all, Christ is brought from death to life, wherein every resurrection has its birth.

So rejoice! Tonight your vigil is ended. We wait no longer for our Savior. He has come with light and life.

O night that is brighter than day,  
O night more dazzling than the sun,  
O night more sparkling than fresh snow,  
O night more brilliant than all our lamps!  
O night that is sweeter than Paradise,  
O night delivered from darkness,  
O night that dispels the sleep of sin,  
O night that makes us keep vigil with the angels,  
O night terrible for the demons,  
O night desired by all the year,  
O night that leads the bridal Church to her Spouse,  
O night that is mother to those enlightened!  
O night in which the Devil, sleeping, was despoiled,  
O night in which the Heir brings the co-heirs to their heritage!  
Amen

-Asterius of Pontus

# Service of Light

## Invocation, Collect, and Blessings

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**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 puts the five wax nails into 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.*

### Lux Christi



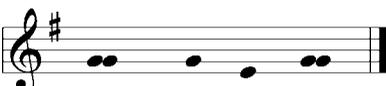
**A** The light of Christ.



**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.

- 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



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al-so 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.

## Proper Preface

**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.*

*Sit*

## 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.

### Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

**A** A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."

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

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

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

487 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

# Remembrance of Holy Baptism

## Baptismal Address

- 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.

## Renunciation

- 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.

## Profession of Faith

- 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.

# Service of Prayer

*Stand*

## 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

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### Collect of the Day

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

### Holy Gospel *Mark 16:1–8*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. <sup>5</sup>And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>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.

*Sit*

**Homily**

*Stand*

## Collect

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

## 475 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

✠ INI ✠

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