

**The Sacred Paschal Triduum
(Part III)
The Vigil of Easter**



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
April 4, 2026**

Welcome to All Who Worship

We are **broken** and **blessed** followers of Christ providing a **home** for all who wander the weary road.

We invite you to sign a guest card in the pew rack, noting your attendance and place it in the offering plate as the offering is taken or you may sign the attendance book in the Fellowship Hall.

Holy Communion

To Our Guests: We're glad you're here! Lutherans believe this sacrament is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine. Here he gives himself and all that he promises. Receiving the sacrament is also an expression of full unity in faith with those with whom you are communing. Based on this theological principle, if you are a member of a congregation that shares the confession of faith of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have been instructed concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to commune with us today. We continue to pray for the day when all divisions in the body of Christ will cease. Anyone who wishes may receive a pastoral blessing by kneeling at the altar rail with your arms folded across your chest. If you desire to commune at St. Paul and would like to learn more about the Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor.

To Those Communing Today: God's Word instructs those who come to the Lord's Table to first examine themselves. You may use the meditation material in this bulletin to prepare yourself to receive the Sacrament.

The pastor will distribute the body of Christ followed by an usher with a tray of individual cups. The pastor will then follow with the Chalice.

Gluten free bread is available. Please ask the pastor or an usher before the service.

Offering: If you have a monetary offering, you are invited to place it in the offering plate on the table at the back of the center aisle. The offerings will be brought forward and presented as an act of worship during the service. If you missed the opportunity to place your offering beforehand, another plate will remain in the back after the service.

A Very Long Name



"Treebeard" by Alan Lee

To those who are not of the household of faith, what we are about to do must look very peculiar. We are about to stand in the dark, carry candles about, sing lengthy and sublime religious tests, read stories from the Bible. What does this all mean? What is going on here in this community?

I think that I first came to understand what this was all about and why I came to think that this was the most important thing in my life when I read *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien. In their wandering and meandering, two of the main characters, called hobbits, meet a talking tree, called an Ent, and they introduce themselves and the conversation proceeds:

"I'm a Brandybuck, Meriadoc Brandybuck, though most people call me just Merry."

"And I'm a Took, Peregín Took, but I'm generally called Pippin, or even Pip."

"Hm, but you are hasty folk, I see," said Treebeard. "I am honored by your confidence; but you should not be too free all at once. There are Ents and Ents, you know; or there are Ents and things that look like Ents but ain't, as you might say. I'll call you Merry and Pippin, if you please - nice names. For I am not going to tell you my name, not yet at any rate." A queer half-knowing, half-humorous look came with a green flicker into his eyes. "For one thing it would take a very long while: my name is growing all the time, and I've lived a very long, long time; so my name is like a story. Real names

tell you the story of the things they belong to in my language, in the Old Entish as you might say. It is a lovely language, but it takes a very long time to say anything in it, because we do not say anything in it, unless it is worth taking a long time to say, and to listen to."

To use Treebeard's mode of expression, we are not going to be hasty folk tonight, satisfied with glibly saying the name "Christian." Tonight, you might say, is "Old Entish" night in the church. Tonight we are going to tell our name - to ourselves, by way of reminder, to those who will become part of us this night through baptism and confirmation, and to those of the world who will listen, who will take the time to hear what our name is.

And our name is a very long one, one that has been growing since the creation of the world. Our name is a very long story - of how we are made, of how God chose us from among all peoples, of how God liberated us from bondage, of how God planted us in the promised land, of how, in these last times, God has given a new twist, given our name meaning in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Because we have been here for so long, it takes a long time to tell who we are, to recount the story of our life as a people, and none of us would be here if we did not think that that name was worth telling and listening to. Now the trick to this kind of name telling is to relax. You cannot be hasty in this time ahead of us. Haste will stop up your ears finally, and then you will not hear this lovely language and our beautiful name.

Relax and make yourself comfortable in the darkness and don't even try to "make sense" of the name. Just hear it, let it roll over you in waves of meanings. Tonight we are going to listen to a series of episodes, not write a theological treatise on the resurrection. A practical word about relaxing: if you need to get up and move about, do so. If you need a breath of fresh air, go out to get it. We'll still be telling the story when you rejoin us. Whatever you need to do to stay comfortable, do it. All of this will enable you to hear the lovely language in which we can really name ourselves as God himself has named us.

"Christian" is merely an inadequate abbreviation for what we are about to tell.

-Brian Helge, from [A Triduum Sourcebook](#), Gabe Huck

I. SERVICE OF LIGHT

“The first part of the Great Watch centers around light, the first work of the Creator, the visible token of Christ, who proclaimed himself the Light of the world and who at Easter arose, shining as the dawning sun, conquering forever the dark night of sin.” -Manual on the Liturgy

Stand as you are able

GREETING

BLESSING OF THE BLAZING FIRE

“As at creation light came into the darkness, so at the beginning of the celebration of the new creation a fire is kindled in the darkness.” -Manual on the Liturgy

PREPARATION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The paschal (Easter) candle represents the risen Lord shining in the splendor of his resurrection.

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:

P the Alpha and the Omega.

He traces the year on the candle saying:

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

He puts the five wax nails into the candle saying:

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

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

P 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...even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

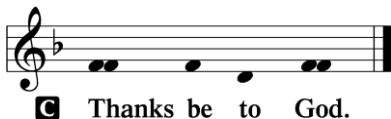
C Amen.

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

“As the children of Israel were led by a pillar of fire from slavery to freedom in the promised land, so the church is led from the slavery of sin to the glorious liberty of the children of God in the heavenly land of promise. Again, a pillar of fire, the candle, leads the way.” -Manual on the Liturgy

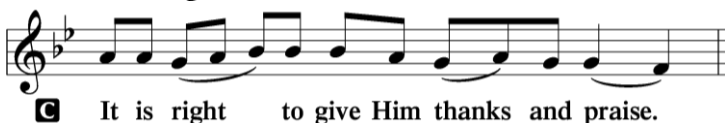
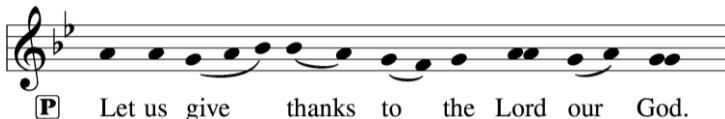
PROCESSION OF LIGHT

As the Paschal candle is carried in procession, the following is sung three times:



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 Kings; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoiced, 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.



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 A - men.

All may extinguish their candles at this time.

Sit

II. SERVICE OF READINGS

1. THE CREATION

Genesis 1 & 2

Response: Psalm 104



³⁰When you send forth your Spirit, they are cre- ated,
and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹May the glory of the Lord endure for- ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works,

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, you are very great!

You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

**²covering yourself with light as with a garment,
stretching out the heavens like a tent.**

⁵He set the earth on its foundations,
so that it should never be moved.

⁶You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.

**¹⁰You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills;**

**¹²Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;
they sing among the branches.**

¹³From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

¹⁴You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth

**²⁴O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul!

³⁰When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works,

COLLECT

Silence for reflection

2. THE FLOOD

Genesis 7, 8, 9

COLLECT

Silence for reflection

3. THE TESTING OF ABRAHAM

Genesis 22

COLLECT

Silence for reflection

4. ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA Exodus 14 & 15

Response

“Song of Moses and Israel”

LSB 925

Refrain

I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed glo - rious -
ly; the horse and his rid - er He has thrown in - to the sea.

Chant Tone

Chant Tone

- A** The Lord is my strength and my song,
and He has become my sal- vation;
This is my God, and I will praise Him,
my father's God, and I will ex- alt Him.

C Refrain

- A** The Lord is a man of war;
the Lord is His name.

Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast in- to the sea,
and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,
Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

C Refrain

- A** Who is like You, O Lord, a- mong the gods?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds,
doing wonders?
You stretched out Your right hand;
the earth swallowed them.
You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have
redeemed;
You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho- ly abode.

You will bring them in and plant them on Your own ♪ mountain,
the place, O Lord, which You have made for ♪ Your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have es- ♪ tablished.
The Lord will reign forever and ♪ ever.

C 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.

C Refrain

Text: Exodus 15:1–6, 11–13, 17–18 Tune: Jeffrey N. Blerch, 1967
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Collect

Silence for reflection

5. THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Ezekiel 37









Response: Psalm 51

Refrain:

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.

- A** Let me hear joy and ♪ gladness;
let the bones that you have bro- ♪ ken rejoice.
- A** Hide your face ♪ from my sins,
and blot out all my in- ♪ iquities.
- A** Create in me a clean heart, ♪ O God,
and renew a right spirit with- ♪ in me.
- A** Cast me not away from your ♪ presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit ♪ from me.

C Refrain

- A** Restore to me the joy of your sal- vation,
and uphold me with a willing  spirit.
- A** Then I will teach transgressors  your ways,
and sinners will re-  turn to you.
- A** Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my sal-  vation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your  righteousness.
- A** O Lord, open  my lips,
and my mouth will de-  clare your praise.

C Refrain

COLLECT

Silence for reflection

6. JOB CONFESSING THE REDEEMER

Job 19

COLLECT

Silence for reflection

7. THE FIERY FURNANCE

Daniel 3

COLLECT

HYMN

“All You Works of God, Bless the Lord”

LSB 930

- 1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
All you angels, now bless the Lord;
Come, you heavens and pow’rs that be,
Praise the Lord and His majesty: Refrain
- ref Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!
Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!
- 2 Sing, you sun and you moon above,
Stars of heaven, now sing His love;
Dew and showers, you winds that blow,
Heat and fire, you ice and snow: Refrain

ref Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!
Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!

5 Come, humanity, sing along,
Sing, you people of God, a song;
Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,
Join, you spirits and souls at rest: Refrain

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Jamaican; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–80

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Silence for reflection

III. SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Stand as you are able

BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

BAPTISMAL COLLECT

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

- A** Do you renounce the devil?
C **Yes, I renounce him.**
- A** Do you renounce all his works?
C **Yes, I renounce them.**
- A** Do you renounce all his ways?
C **Yes, I renounce them.**

ASPERSION

During the creed, using an evergreen bough (showing eternal life) the pastor sprinkles water from the font in the direction of the congregation as a remembrance of baptism. The sign of the cross may also be made by each as they are sprinkled with water.

- 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, our Lord?

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.

Sit

FOR CANDIDATES FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Gabe Johnson, JJ Johnson, Charlotte Kelley

P Beloved in the Lord, in Holy Baptism these young people were born again as God's child and received into His Church. As a further gift of His love for us, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Sacrament of the Altar and invites His children to receive this Sacrament in faith for the forgiveness of their sins. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup," and "as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." These candidates have received instruction and have been examined by the pastor regarding their sin and their understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar.

P You are about to be admitted to the Lord's Table. Holy Scripture describes the life of the Church and every baptized Christian with these words: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." You are invited by our Lord to come regularly to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. You will continue to be instructed and nurtured in the Christian faith and life. You are invited to confess your sins and receive the comfort of Holy Absolution. All this will help you live as the child of God you have been made through Holy Baptism.

In testimony of this faith and confession, I now ask you:

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is your Lord?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe that you are a sinner?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper He gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and to strengthen your faith in Him and your love toward others?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you intend to continue to hear and receive the instruction of your Lord, confess your sins, and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully throughout your life?

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P I therefore invite you to the Lord's Supper to receive Christ's precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Peace ✠ be with you.

C Amen.

Addressing the entire congregation, the pastor says:

P Parents, (sponsors), and members of the congregation, the whole Church shares with you the responsibility and concern for the ongoing instruction and spiritual care of these young people. I now ask you, will you intercede for them in prayer and, as much as you are able, give them your counsel and aid that, in communion with the Church, they

may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ? Then answer: We will, with the help of God.

C We will, with the help of God.

P We rejoice with thankful hearts in your confession of faith. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His Holy Supper, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

FOR CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

Tina Helbing, Mike Radke

P Tina and Mike, You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever denies Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before me, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord. *Matthew 10:32-33 NKJV alt.*

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R Yes, I do.

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

R I do.

P Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R I do.

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R I do, by the grace of God.

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R I do, by the grace of God.

P 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, by the grace of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are *members* of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing and passage of Holy Scripture. The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:

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.

R *Amen.*

P Peace ✠ be with you.

C **Amen.**

IV. SERVICE OF PRAYER

Stand as you are able

LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **hear us.**

P Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy on us.**

P Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,

C have mercy on us.

P Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"

C have mercy on us.

P Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,

C have mercy on us.

P Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,

C have mercy on us.

P Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,

C have mercy on us.

P Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them I the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,

C have mercy on us.

P Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,

C have mercy on us.

P Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,

C have mercy on us.

P Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,

C have mercy on us.

P 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.

P Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

C have mercy on us.

P By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,

C good Lord, deliver us.

P By Your victory over sin and death,

C good Lord, deliver us.

P By the majesty of Your risen body,

C good Lord, deliver us.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, Lord Jesus.

- P** 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.**
- P** That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by You,
- C** **grant us, good Lord.**
- P** 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.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** **have mercy on us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** **have mercy on us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** **grant us Your peace.**
- P** O Lord,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
- C** **have mercy. Amen.**

V. SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

Crosses and images are traditionally veiled during Lent as a form of “visual fasting” to focus our attention on the Word. At this point in the service, the veils are removed in celebration. In some churches in Germany and Sicily, a great Lenten veil conceals the entire chancel and altar from ceiling to floor until the “Calata Ra Tila” (Italian, “Descending of the Curtains”) at this point in the Easter Vigil.

The alleluia banner, which was “buried” at the close of the Transfiguration service is resurrected.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

- 1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *refrain*
- 2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing and glory are His. *refrain*
- 3 Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
- 4 Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. *Refrain*
- 5 For the Lamb who was slain
has begun His reign. *Refrain*

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.

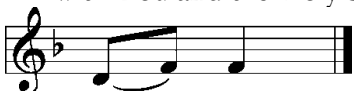


C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Silence for reflection

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.

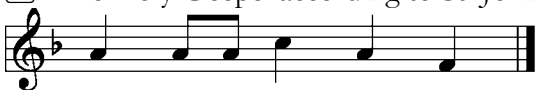


C A - men.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:1-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the twentieth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

After the reading

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Scatter the Darkness,
Break the Gloom”

LSB 481



1 Scat - ter the dark - ness, break the gloom; Sun, re - veal an
2 Bear - ing the stan - dard from on high As the Lamb of
3 Ban - ners of tri - umph, be un - furled! Trum - pets, sound through-



emp - ty tomb Shin - ing with joy for all our sor - rows,
God to die; He who for us, so cruel - ly treat - ed,
out the world! Cry - ing and sighs, give way to sing - ing:



Hope and peace for all to - mor - rows, Life un - e -
Lives a - gain— our foes de - feat - ed! Where is your
Life from death, our Lord is bring - ing! Let there be-



clipped by doubt and dread: Christ has ris - en from the dead!
sting, O death and grave? Christ has shown His strength to save!
gin the ju - bi - lee— Christ has gained the vic - to - ry!

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Sit

SERMON

“Christ the Gardener”

John 20:1-18

Stand as you are able

CHORAL OFFERTORY

Walter L. Pelz

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Cleanse out the old yeast to make yourselves fresh dough,

new unleavened bread! For Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.

Therefore let us celebrate the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

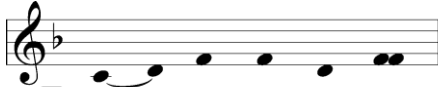
P Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--
our selves, our time, our income, and our possessions, signs of

your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

VI. SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT


PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



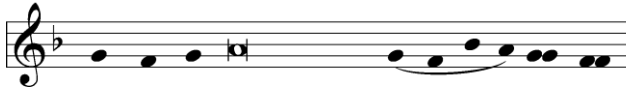
C And al - so with you.



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.


P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My **✝** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My **✝** blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

The Peace of the Lord



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to His Supper. *John 1:29; Revelation 19:9*

C Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed. *Matthew 8:8*

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

FOR MEDITATION DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

What is happening? Today there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; Truly he goes to seek out our first parent like a lost sheep; he wishes to visit those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He goes to free the prisoner Adam and his fellow-prisoner Eve from their pains, he who is God, and Adam's son. And grasping his hand he raises him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light. I am your God, who for your sake became your son, who for you and your descendants now speak and command with authority those in prison: Come forth, and those

in darkness: Have light, and those who sleep: Rise. I command you: Awake, sleeper, I have not made you to be held a prisoner in the underworld. Arise from the dead; I am the life of the dead. Arise, O man, work of my hands, arise, you who were fashioned in my image. Rise, let us go hence; for you in me and I in you, together we are one undivided person.” *-An ancient homily for Holy Saturday, anonymous*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

see insert

Stand as you are able

POST-COMMUNION “Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” **LSB 680**

- 1 Thine the amen Thine the praise
Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story
Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.
- 2 Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree
All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing
Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.
- 3 Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing
Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

- 4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
 Thine the wonder full surprise
 Thine the banquet then the praise
 Then the justice of Thy ways
 Thine the glory Thine the story
 Then the welcome to the least
 Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
- 5 Thine the glory in the night
 No more dying only light
 Thine the river Thine the tree
 Then the Lamb eternally
 Then the holy holy holy
 Celebration jubilee
 Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

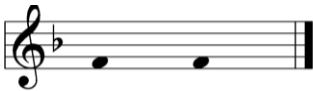
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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Silence for reflection

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.



A A - men.

BENEDICAMUS



A Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION



P The al - mighty and mer - ci - ful Lord, the Father, the † Son,



and the Holy Spir - it, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Sit

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

LSB 474

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! refrain

ref Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

- 2 Walking the way, Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. refrain

- 3 Jesus the vine, We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. refrain

4 Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!”
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. refrain

ref Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

5 City of God, Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! refrain

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POSTLUDE

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THOSE ASSISTING IN THE EASTER VIGIL

Head Usher: Dave Kelley

Organist: David Pitt

Cantors: Karen Paar, Jon Barz

EASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Easter Sunrise Service at the Arboretum – 6:30am

Easter Festival Service – 10:00am

Join us as we draw near the cross of
Christ and his empty tomb.

Share our services with a friend

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“I am the Bread of Life”

cantor: *I am the Bread of Life. You who
come to me shall not hunger; and who believe
in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
me unless the Father beckons.*

**refrain: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.**

cantor: *The bread that I will give is my
flesh for the life of the world, and if you
eat of this bread, you shall live forever,
you shall live forever.*

**refrain: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.**

cantor: *Unless you eat of the flesh
of the Son of Man and
drink of his blood and of his
blood, you shall not have life within you.*

**refrain: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.**

cantor: *I am the Resurrection,
I am the Life. If you believe
in me, even though you
come into the world.*

**refrain: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.**

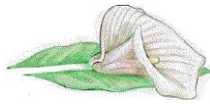
**congregation: Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
Who has come
in-to the world.**

**refrain: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.**

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97 Tune: Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–96

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A very special thank you to those who donated lilies for the Easter weekend.

<i>Name</i>	<i>In Memory/Honor of</i>
1. Jeff & Erin Huebschman	Woody Ziegler
2. Jeff & Erin Huebschman	Dottie Huebschman
3. Angela Osterkamp	Albert "Skip" Osterkamp
4. A.J. Osterkamp	Joe & Alice Goetschius
5. Nancy Henry	To the Glory of God
6. Becky Clark	Gertrude, Harold, Thad & Billy Howes
7. Becky Clark	Kelly, Katie & Don Howes
8. Jeff & Sheila Zasada	Robert & Lorraine Zasada
9. John & Marlene Wever	David Weber
10. Kathy Patton	Jim Mayer
11. Charlotte Tigges	Richard "Dick" Tigges
12. Sue Hass	Dr. Russell Hass
13. Cindy Hass	Mary Hass
14. Bill & Sandi Heller	Robert Volkert
15. Greg & Andi Kittle	Our Parents
16. Jon & Misty Lutz	Donald Lutz
17. Jon & Misty Lutz	To the Glory of God
18. Nancy Prine	In honor of my mom Carroll Weinhold
19. Nancy Prine	My father Walter Weinhold
20. Dan Rusch	In memory of Carol Rusch
21. Dixie Hassler	In memory of David Hassler
22. Mary Ann McGeough	In memory of Clarence & Margaret Funk