

The Vigil of Easter

The congregation gathers in a convenient place outside the nave of the church. Where permissible, candles are given to all, later to be lighted from the paschal candle.

Service of Light

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 paschal candle is dedicated.

The Procession begins:



A The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.



A The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.



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).

Preface Dialogue



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



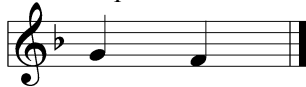
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Easter Proclamation

After the pastor has chanted...



C A - men.

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.

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.

The Creation

after the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Flood

A A reading from Genesis, chapters seven, eight, and nine.

after the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ's body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

A A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.

after the reading

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.**

925 Song of Moses and Israel

Refrain

I will sing to the LORD, for He has tri-umphed glo-ri-ous -
ly; the horse and his rid-er He has thrown in - to the sea.

¹The LORD is my strength | and my song,*
and He has become my sal- | vation;

²this is my God, and I will | praise Him,*
my father's God, and I will ex- | alt Him.

Refrain

³The LORD is a | man of war;*
the LORD | is His name.

⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast in- | to the sea,*
and his chosen officers were sunk in the | Red Sea.

⁵The floods | covered them;*
they went down into the depths | like a stone.

⁶Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,*
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.

Refrain

⁷Who is like You, O LORD, a- | mong the gods?*

Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing | wonders?

⁸You stretched out Your | right hand;*
the earth | swallowed them.

⁹You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You | have redeemed,*
You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho- | ly abode.

¹⁰You will bring them in and plant them on Your own | mountain,*
the place, O LORD, which You have made for | Your abode,

¹¹the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have es- | tablished.*
The LORD will reign forever and | 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.**

Refrain

Text: Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18

Tune: Jeffrey N. Biersch, 1967

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Salvation Offered Freely to All

A A reading from Isaiah, chapter 55.

after the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your Word You created and sustain all things, and by Your Spirit You 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.

C **Amen.**

A New Heart and a New Spirit

A A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 36.

after the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who are brought to 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.

C **Amen.**

God's Faithfulness to Israel

A A reading from Deuteronomy, chapter 31.

after the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O God, the exaltation of the humble and the strength of the righteous, You taught Your people through Your holy servant Moses to sing Your sacred songs and delivered to them the Law that still directs us. Display in all nations the fullness of Your power that, as You blot out all sins through Your forgiveness, terror may turn to joy and fear of punishment may be transformed into the hope of salvation; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Job Confesses the Redeemer

A A reading from Job, chapter 19.

after the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our great Redeemer, in the sacrifice of Your Son You put to death our wretched flesh and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we may always cling to Christ by faith in this life that at the last we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see You face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Jonah Preaches to Nineveh

A A reading from Jonah, chapter three.

after the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

O God, as the prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

985 Song of Jonah

Refrain

I called out to the LORD, and He

an - swered me, and He an - swered me.

Chant Tone

*

¹ I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and He | answered me; *
out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You | heard my voice.

² For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood sur- | rounded me; *
all Your waves and Your billows passed | over me.

³ Then I said, “I am driven away | from Your sight; *
yet I shall again look upon Your holy | temple.”

Refrain

⁴ The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep sur- | rounded me; *
weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the | mountains.

⁵ I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me for- | ever; *
yet You brought up my life from the pit, O- | LORD my God.

⁶ When my life was fainting away, I remembered | the LORD, *
and my prayer came to You, into Your holy | temple.

Refrain

⁷ Those who pay regard to vain | idols *
forsake their hope of | steadfast love.

⁸ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to You; what I have vowed | I will pay. *
Salvation belongs | to the Lord!

**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.**

Refrain

Text: Jonah 2:2–9
Tune: Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025
Text: © 2001 Crossway Bibles. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003065
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The Gathering of God’s People

A A reading from Zephaniah, chapter three.

after the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P 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 us. Gather in Your people that all the world may see and know that what has been cast down is raised up and what has grown old is made new, until the work You have begun in us is brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

The Fiery Furnace

A A reading from Daniel, chapter three.

after the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Chant Tone

Refrain

Praise Him and mag-ni - fy Him for - ev - er.

¹All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord—*
praise Him and magnify Him for- | ever.*

You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

²You heavens, | bless the Lord;*

all you waters above the heavens, | bless the Lord;*

all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

³You sun and moon, | bless the Lord;*

you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord;*

all you showers and dew, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁴All you winds of God, | bless the Lord;*

you fire and heat, | bless the Lord;*

you winter and summer, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁵You dews and frost, | bless the Lord;*

you frost and cold, | bless the Lord;*

you ice and snow, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁶You nights and days, | bless the Lord;*

you light and darkness, | bless the Lord;*

you lightnings and clouds, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁷Let the earth | bless the Lord;*

you mountains and hills, | bless the Lord;*

all you green things that grow on the earth, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁸You wells and springs, | bless the Lord;*

you rivers and seas, | bless the Lord;*

you whales and all who move in the waters, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁹All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord;*

all you beasts and cattle, | bless the Lord;*

all you children of men, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

¹⁰O Israel, | bless the Lord;*

you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord;*

you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

¹¹You spirits and souls of the righteous, | bless the Lord;*

you pure and humble of heart, | bless the Lord;*

let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy | Spirit: **Refrain**

Text: Song of the Three Young Men

Tune: Paul J. Grime, 1958

Text: Public domain

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During the canticle, the candle bearer carries the paschal candle to the font, followed by the pastor(s). If there are candidates for Baptism or confirmation, or if there are new members to be received, they also gather at the font, together with their sponsors and families.

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.

When candidates for Baptism are present, the following is used:

For Candidates for Baptism

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

- P** Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The pastor addresses each candidate:

P How are you named?

R *[Name]*

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

R *Yes, I do.*

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

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

C **Amen.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized 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.

C **Amen.**

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

P Peace ✠ be with you.

C **Amen.**

Addressing the entire congregation, the pastor says:

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 candidates return to their places. The paschal candle is placed back in its stand, and the ministers return to their earlier stations.

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

The Vigil continues with a brief service of the Word according to one of the settings of the Divine Service, allowing for the proclamation of the Easter Gospel. The service is abbreviated in the following manner:

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)

LSB 155

Refrain

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*

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.

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

A brief sermon may be preached.

Acknowledgments

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