

Easter Vigil Worship For St. Paul's and Grace Lutheran Churches



April 19, 2025

- 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.**

Preface Dialogue

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Easter Proclamation

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

the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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

P A reading from Genesis, chapters one and two.

P 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

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

P 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.**

The Testing of Abraham

P A reading from Genesis, chapter 22.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

P A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.

P 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.**

Salvation Offered Freely to All

P A reading from Isaiah, chapter 55.

P 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

- P A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 36.
- P 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

- P A reading from Deuteronomy, chapter 31.
- P 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.**

The Valley of Dry Bones

P A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 37.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam's children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Job Confesses the Redeemer

P A reading from Job, chapter 19.

P 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

P A reading from Jonah, chapter three.

P 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.**

The Gathering of God's People

P A reading from Zephaniah, chapter three.

P 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

P A reading from Daniel, chapter three.

P 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.**

930 All You Works of God, Bless the Lord

- 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
- 3 Frost of winter with song so cold, Dews of summer, your song unfold; Light and darkness, you day and night, Clouds of thunder, you lightnings bright: Refrain
- 4 Hills and mountains, now sing His worth, All you green things that grow on earth; Seas and rivers, you springs and wells, Beasts and cattle, you birds and whales: Refrain
- 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
- D 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart; All you humble, His praise impart; God the Father and Son adore, Bless the Spirit forevermore! Refrain

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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.**

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 T everlasting.

C **Amen.**

P Peace T be with you.

C **Amen.**

Service of Prayer

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 in 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 others 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.**

Service of the Word

Easter Acclamation

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

PREFACE

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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;

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 (Matthew 6:9–13)

- 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**

PAX DOMINI

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P 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

- P 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.

HYMN I Know That My Redeemer Lives

LSB 461

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
 He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
 He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;
 He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
- 4 He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;
 He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
- 5 He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

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Acknowledgments

Vigil of Easter from Lutheran Service Book

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