

Vigil of Easter

A Celebration of
The Resurrection of Our Lord
and Our Baptism



Peace Lutheran Church and Academy
Sussex, Wisconsin

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

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T 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 into life, we are gathered here in vigil and in 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.**

Preparation of the Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle represents Christ, the true Passover Lamb, and signifies His death and resurrection by which we have salvation and into which we have been baptized. For this reason the Paschal Candle is lit at every baptism, at every Christian funeral, and throughout the great 50 days of Eastertide in celebration of our Lord's victory over death.

The cross is traced on the paschal candle.

P Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

The Greek letters Alpha and Omega are traced on the paschal candle.

P the Alpha and the Omega.

The year is traced on the paschal candle.

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

Five wax nails are placed into the paschal candle.

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

The paschal candle is lit. (A Paschal Torch may be lit if the service takes place outdoors).

P May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

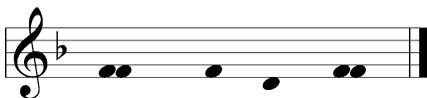
All light their candles from the paschal candle and follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church. (If the Service of Light takes place outdoors, candles will be lit indoors.)

The Procession

“The Light of Christ” is chanted three times: as the procession begins, at the entrance to the nave, and, after all have reached their places, as the Paschal Candle is held aloft before the altar.



L: The light of Christ.

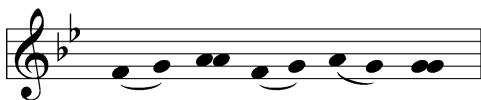


C: Thanks be to God.

After the candle bearer places the paschal candle in its stand, the Easter Proclamation is chanted or spoken.

Exsultet—Easter Proclamation

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.



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 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 extinguish their candles.

Sit

Service of the Word

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.

Not all the readings are read each year. The readings marked by a “+” are read each year.

Psalms, hymns, and other choral music may follow the collect after each reading.

*Each reading concludes with — “This is the Word of the Lord” and the response: **“Thanks be to God.”***

+ The Creation

Genesis 1:1 —2:3

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

Genesis 7:1–5; 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

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

Genesis 22:1–18

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

Exodus 14:10–15:1

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

Isaiah 55:1–11

- 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

Ezekiel 36:24–28

- 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

Deuteronomy 31:19–30

- 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

Ezekiel 37:1–14

- 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

Job 19:20–27

- 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

Jonah 3:1–10

- 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

Zephaniah 3:12–20

- 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

Daniel 3:1–30

- 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.**

All You Works of the Lord (The Song of the Three Young Men)

LSB 931

Congregation sings the Refrain and the Choir sings the verses.

Sermon

The paschal candle is carried to the baptismal font.

Candidates for Baptism and Confirmation, along with those being received into the congregation by Profession of Faith or Transfer, gather in front of the chancel and around the baptismal font.

Service of Holy Baptism

The service of Holy Baptism is always used at the Vigil as a remembrance of Baptism for all the baptized.

- 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.**

For Candidates for Holy Baptism *(This section is omitted when there are no Baptisms.)*

If there are candidates for the Sacrament of Holy 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 T forehead and upon your T heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The pastor addresses each candidate for Baptism:

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 baptismal 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 T everlasting.

C **Amen.**

The pastor lights a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and gives 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 T be with you.

C **Amen.**

For Candidates for Confirmation and Reception of New Members

P You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess 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.

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 to 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 We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

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 saying:

P [Name], 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.

R *Amen.*

P Peace T be with you.
C **Amen.**

Addressing the entire congregation in remembrance of their baptism, 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 T everlasting.
C **Amen.**

P Peace T be with you.
C **Amen.**

The paschal candle is returned to its place.

Service of the Sacrament of the Altar

Salutation and Collect of the Day

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.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. _____ the _____ chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After the Resurrection Gospel is read, the following is spoken.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Easter Acclamation

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

Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast



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.

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.**

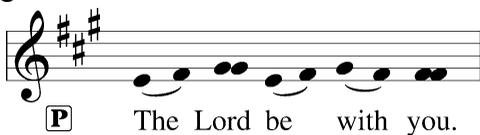
A By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,

C **good Lord, deliver us.**

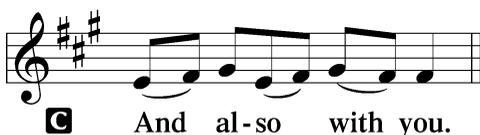
A By Your victory over sin and death,

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 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.**

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



G And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. 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.

The Words of Our Lord

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

Pax Domini



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



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, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying: "The body of Christ given for you." "The blood of Christ shed for you."

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you
body and soul in the true faith unto life everlasting. Depart T in peace.
C **Amen.**

Distribution Hymns

Post-Communion Collect

- P Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent
Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us
pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but
always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled
constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Collect of the Resurrection

- 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.**

Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
C **Amen.**

Hymn to Depart

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