

THE EASTER VIGIL

March 30, 2024
7:00 pm



The Liturgy of Light

The congregation gathers outside of the interior of the church itself. Each person is given a candle.

GREETING AND INSCRIPTION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The presiding minister and the assisting ministers come and stand among the people. One of them carries the paschal candle. The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

The presiding minister traces the inscription on the paschal candle, which is held by an assisting minister.

| | |
|--|----|
| Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. | AΩ |
| To Christ belongs all time | 2 |
| and all the ages; | 0 |
| to Christ belongs glory and dominion | 2 |
| now and forever. | 4 |

C: Amen.

The new fire is lighted. The presiding minister waits until the fire is burning before praying.

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The paschal candle is lighted from the new fire.

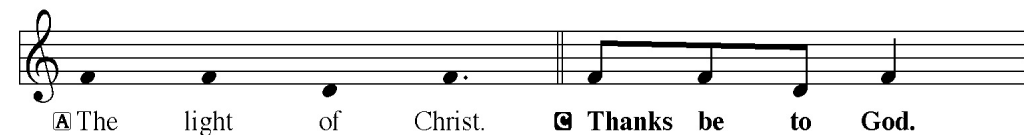
P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

PROCESSION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

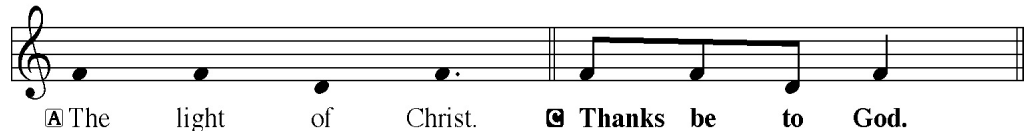
The assisting minister who holds the candle lifts it high and sings:



The Procession into the darkened church begins, led by the assisting minister who bears the paschal candle. At the church door, the assisting minister lifts the candle high and sings a second time:



All light their candles from the paschal candle, and the procession continues into the church. Having arrived before the altar, the assisting minister turns to face the congregation, and, when all have reached their places, lifts the candle high and sings a third time:



The paschal candle is placed in its stand.

EASTER PROCLAMATION - THE EXSULTET

A: Rejoice, now, all heavenly choirs of angels, and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and, for the victory of so great a King, sound the trumpet of salvation. Exult, also, O earth, enlightened with such radiance; and, made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal King, know that the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world. Be glad also, O mother Church, clothed with the brightness of such a light, and let this house resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples.

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

A: It is indeed right and salutary that we should with full devotion of heart and mind and voice praise the invisible God, the Father Almighty, and his only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ; who paid for us the debt of Adam to the eternal Father, and who by his precious blood redeemed us from the bondage to the ancient sin.

For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain, by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy. This is the night in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, from the land of Egypt; and led them, dry-shod, through the Red Sea. This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and holiness, by the rising brightness. This is the night in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.

O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell! O night truly blessed in which heaven and earth are joined - things human and things divine. We, therefore, pray to you, O Lord, that he, in whose honor this candle burns, will continue to vanquish the darkness of this night and faithfully shed light on all the human race. through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The members of the congregation extinguish their candles. A few lights in the church may be turned on. The people may be seated.



The Service of Readings: The Story of Salvation

INTRODUCTION TO THE 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.

A short silence follows each reading.

THE CREATION: A READING FROM GENESIS 1 AND 2

(Gen. 1:1--2:4a)

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of him who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE FLOOD: A READING FROM GENESIS 7, 8, AND 9

(Gen. 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13)

P: Let us pray. O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world experience and see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through him from whom they first took being, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE PASSOVER: A READING FROM EXODUS 12

(Exod 12:1-14)

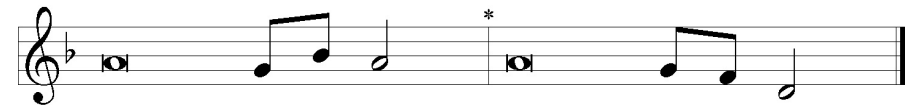
P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, wonderful in all your works: Let your people understand that even more marvelous than the world's creation is your gift at the end of time: the sacrifice of our Passover Lamb, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE: A READING FROM EXODUS 14 AND 15

(Exod 14:10-31; 15:20-21)

The Song of Moses and Miriam



I will sing to the Lord for he has | triumphed gloriously;* the horse and its rider
he has thrown in- | to the sea.

The Lord is my strength | and my song;* he has | been my Savior.

This is my God, and | I will praise him,* my father's God, and I | will exalt him.
**Your right hand, O Lord, glo- | rious in power,* your right hand, O Lord,
shat- | ters the enemy.**

Who among the gods is like | you, O Lord? * Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, | doing wonders?

**In your mercy you led forth the people | you set free;* you guided them in
your strength to your holy | habitation.**

You will bring them | in and plant them* on the mount that is | your possession,
**The place, O Lord, you have made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord,
which your hands | have prepared.***

The Lord shall reign forev- | er and ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forev- | er. Amen.**

P: Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham and may rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SALVATION OFFERED TO ALL: A READING FROM ISAIAH 55 (Isa. 55:1-11)

P: O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

GOD PROMISES RESURRECTION: A READING FROM EZEKIEL 37 (Ezek 37:1-14)

P: Let us pray. God of all compassion and consolation, your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may face despair and death with the hope of resurrection and new life through your son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

GOD DELIVERS FROM THE FIERY FURNACE: DANIEL 3 (Dan 3:1-30)

Benedicite, Omnia Opera



All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord—* praise him and magnify | him forever.
You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord;* you heavens, | bless the Lord;

all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord—* praise him and magnify | him forever.
You sun and moon, | bless the Lord;* you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord;

you showers and dew, | bless the Lord—* praise him and magnify | him forever.
You winds of God, | bless the Lord;* you fire and heat, | bless the Lord;

you winter and summer, | bless the Lord—* praise him and magnify | him forever.
You dews and frost, | bless the Lord;* you frost and cold, | bless the Lord;

you ice and snow, | bless the Lord—* praise him and magnify | him forever.
**You nights and days, | bless the Lord;* you light and darkness, | bless
the Lord;**

you lightnings and clouds, | bless the Lord—* praise him and magnify | him forever.
Let the earth | bless the Lord;* you mountains and hills, | bless the Lord;

all you green things that grow on the earth, | bless the Lord—* praise him and
magnify | him forever.
You 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—* praise him and
magnify | him forever.
**All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord;* all you beasts and cattle, | bless
the Lord;**

all you children of mortals, | bless the Lord—* praise him and magnify | him forever.
You people of God, | bless the Lord;* you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord;

you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord—* praise him and magnify | him forever.
**You 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— praise him and
magnify him for | ever. Amen.



The Renewal of Holy Baptism

The congregation renews its baptismal vows by saying the Thanksgiving and Profession of Faith.

BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

P: On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says:

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But 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. 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."

THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here gathered may be strengthened in new life. Wash away the sin of all those who have been cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

MEDITATION ON BAPTISM

Pastor Tom Jacobson

PROFESSION OF FAITH

During the creed, the minister sprinkles the congregation with water from the font.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the † resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BLESSING

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 LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

A: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: Who has loved us from all eternity:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: And remembered us when we were in trouble:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: And was made flesh of the Virgin Mary and became human:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: Who by his cross and suffering has redeemed the world:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: And washed us from our sins in his own blood:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: Who on the third day rose from the dead:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: And has given us the victory:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: Who ascended on high:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: And opened wide for us the everlasting doors:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: Who is seated at the right hand of God:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: And ever lives to make intercession for us:

C: For his mercy endures forever.

A: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A: For the gift of his Spirit:

C: Blessed be Christ.

A: For the holy catholic Church:

C: Blessed be Christ.

A: For the means of grace:

C: Blessed be Christ.

A: For the hope of glory:

C: Blessed be Christ.

A: For the triumph of his gospel:

C: Blessed be Christ.

A: For the lives of his saints:

C: Blessed be Christ.

A: In joy and in sorrow:

C: Blessed be Christ.

A: In life and in death:

C: Blessed be Christ.

A: Now and unto endless ages:

C: Blessed be Christ.

P: Blessing and honor and thanksgiving and praise, more than we can utter, more than we can conceive, be to you, O holy and glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, by all angels, all humanity, and all creatures, forever and ever.

C: Amen.



The Feast of Victory

EASTER ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE

As the Hymn of Praise is sung, all lights in the church are turned on.



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

Verses 1-2

Green Book 143

Now all the vault of heaven resounds In praise of love that still abounds,

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here,

"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings; Therefore our heart with rapture sings,

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Now still he comes to give us life; And by his presence still all strife.

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

(John 20:1-18)

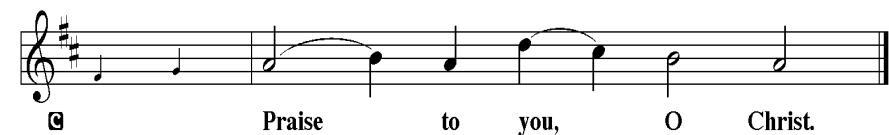
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.



P: 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SEQUENCE HYMN

Verses 3-4

Green Book 143

*Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above,
That we conquer through your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day, That by our lives we truly say,
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Adoring praises now we bring, and with the heavenly blessed sing,
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord, To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The people remain standing

A: On this most holy night, Christ passes from death to life, and the whole creation shouts for joy. We pray that the light of Christ will continue to transform the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Shine the light of Christ on your church gathered in prayer, O God. Lead us to the shadowy places of this world and there give us humility to speak a word of newness and grace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: By the light of Christ, warm the hearts of those in need and comfort those who care for them. We pray especially for those who will die soon. Bring them to dance with you on the safe side of the sea. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: By the light of Christ, awaken in this community new energy for life together. Help us plant new seeds and dream new dreams for the flourishing of the spirit of joy among all people. We rejoice with the newly baptized (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You are light, O God; you are life. We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to your care, trusting in the one who is the firstborn of the dead, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.

OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:\

THE 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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

THE FRACTION

P: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

C: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The people may be seated

LAMB OF GOD



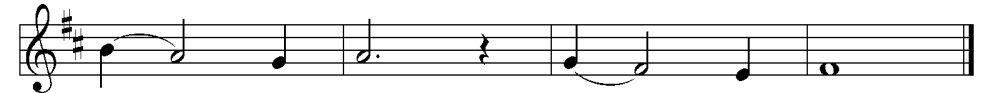
☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

DISTRIBUTION

☩ *All are encouraged to make the sign of the cross with the water from the font to remember your baptism as you come forward to receive Holy Communion.* ☩

Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Ushers will dismiss rows to form two lines down the center aisle. Receive bread from the pastor and proceed to the wine station nearest you. After you have received the bread, an usher will provide each person with an individual cup that will then be filled with wine by the assisting minister. Only individual cups with grape juice will be filled before hand. Coming forward to receive only the bread is perfectly acceptable. Those choosing not to receive communion can come forward for a blessing signaled by having your arms crossed over your chest. When you have communed, you may return to your seat by way of the side aisle.

Hymns during distribution: Green Book 145, 147

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The people please stand.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

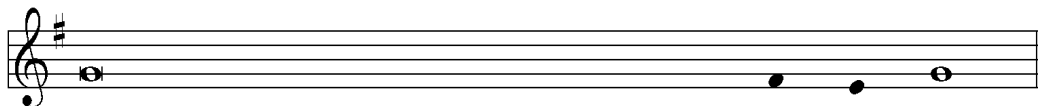
C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING



☐ 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 ✝ give you peace.



A: Go in peace. Christ is risen!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* Green Book 144

POSTLUDE

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



COMMEMORATIONS:

As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

- March 31 John Donne, priest, 1631
- April 6 Albrecht Dürer, painter, 1528;
 Michelangelo Buonarroti, artist, 1564

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY (MARCH 31)

Isaiah 25:6-9
Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24
Mark 16:1-8

Serving Easter Vigil:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tom Jacobson
Assisting Minister: Kelly O'Reilly
Accompanist: Sue Ellen Simmons
Readers/Cantors: Reader 1- Casey Sigler; Reader 2- Becky Winegardner;
Reader 3- Theresa Jacobson; Reader 4- Tom Rodgers; Reader 5- Twila Rodgers;
Reader 6- Casey Sigler; Reader 7- Theresa Jacobson