

Triduum

The Three Great Days

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 5, 2012 at 7:00 PM

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GOOD FRIDAY
April 6, 2012 at 7:00 PM

page 11

The GREAT VIGIL of EASTER
April 7, 2012 at 8:00 PM

page 17

Especially for visitors...

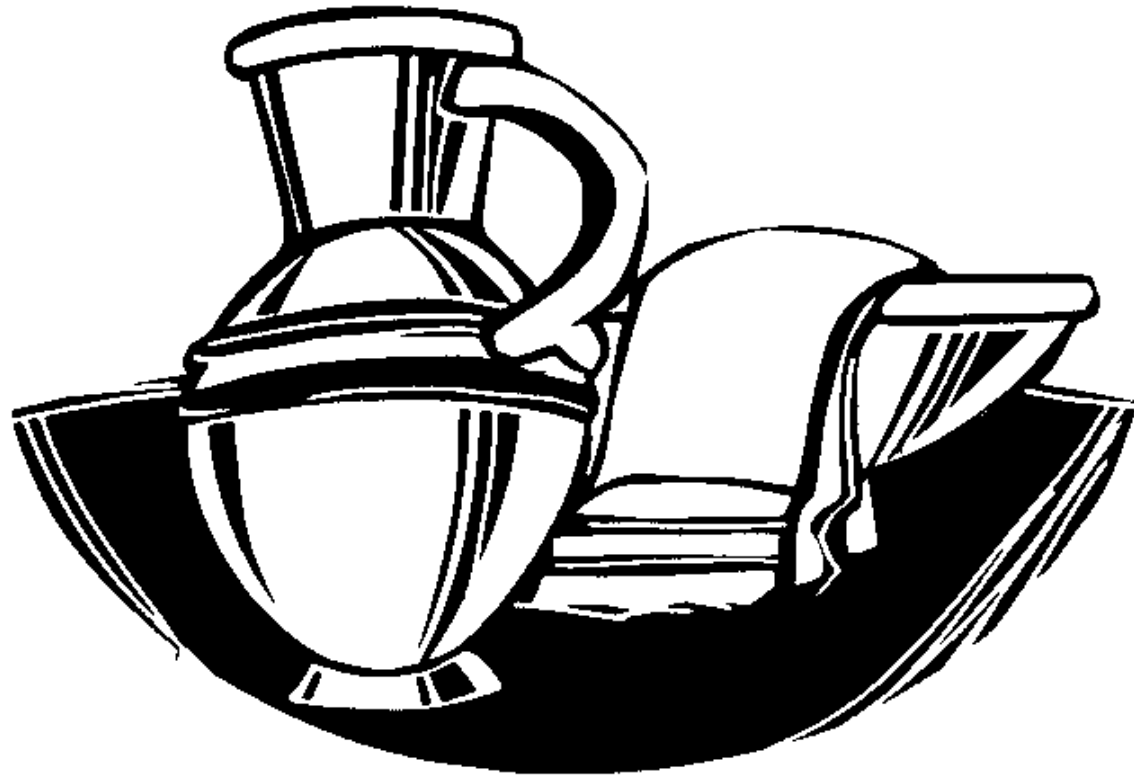
Welcome to St. Michael Lutheran Church on this most holy night. We are happy that you have joined us for the most important liturgy of the year for the Christian Church.

Through these evenings we celebrate and receive all that which God has done for us. We will not always understand everything that happens in this liturgy. That is all right. We all come here because we are called to the holiness of these three days, and trust in God's great providence for us.

All baptized Christians are invited to share in the Holy Eucharist. In this sacrament, by the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit we receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ along with the bread and wine for our salvation and forgiveness, as we celebrate our unity with Christ and all the saints. We kneel at the altar on Thursday, and stand at the rail on Saturday.

In the outer column of these pages are small commentaries on this liturgy. We hope you find the remarks helpful and enlightening as we move together through the Three Days.

On this day the Christian community gathers to share in the holy supper Christ gave the church to reveal his unfailing love for the human family. In the actions of this liturgy, Christ demonstrates this love by speaking his faithful word, washing our feet, and giving us his body and blood. From this gathering we are sent to continue these actions in daily life: to serve those in need, to offer mercy, to feed the hungry.



WORSHIP LEADERS (VIGIL OF EASTER)

Presiding Minister	The Reverend Larry Hawkins
Director of Music	Daniel W. Deitzel III
Assisting Minister	Wayne Noss
Eucharistic Minister	Terrell Archer
Greeters	Sue McDonald and Chris Persson
Ushers	Lloyd and Shirley Kramer
Altar Guild	Guy Kehler and Lindsay Mills

Bulletins are sponsored to the Glory of God by Jackie Smith.

Fellowship Hour this evening is sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.

WORSHIP LEADERS (MAUNDY THURSDAY)

Presiding Minister	The Reverend Larry Hawkins
Director of Music	Daniel W. Deitzel III
Assisting Minister	Kevin Hepler
Cantor	Elizabeth Benion
Eucharistic Minister	Will Hawkins
Acolyte	Clair Gunnet, Jr.
Lector	Lindsay Mills
Greeter	Norma Ickes
Ushers	Floyd and Nancy Eberly
Altar Guild	Floyd and Nancy Eberly

Guy Kehler and Lindsay Mills sponsor the altar flowers and bulletins to the Glory of God and in memory of Hilda M. Mills.

WORSHIP LEADERS (GOOD FRIDAY)

Presiding Minister	The Reverend Larry Hawkins
Director of Music	Daniel W. Deitzel III
Assisting Minister	Les Van Dam
Lector	Norma Ickes
Greeter	Nancy Eberly

Maundy Thursday

Holy Eucharist +++ Washing of Feet
Stripping of the Altar

PRELUDE *The Garden Walk* Gary Davidson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of The Great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

All kneel or sit and keep silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Tonight begins the Triduum, the Three Holy Days, during which the Lord died, was buried, and rose again. These three great days are the most important of the Christian year.

This beginning of the Three Days liturgy does not end tonight; it continues with the worship of Good Friday and concludes with the Resurrection of Our Lord. Together the Three Days proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The pastor speaks for Jesus, in assuring us that we are forgiven. Lent is now over.

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the slaughter, preparation, and consumption of the Passover lamb, whose blood was used to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's Supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

Those who desire may come forward and kneel or stand at the altar rail for the laying on of hands. The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn.

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins. **Amen.**

HYMNS *Healer of Our Every Ill* ELW 612
 We Come to You for Healing, Lord ELW 617

GATHERING HYMN
 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded ELW 351

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray.
Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+++**WORD**+++

FIRST READING EXODUS 12:1–4[5–10] 11–14

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, guard us from the power of evil, keep us in unity with all your people, and by your Spirit move us to testify to your grace in our words and actions; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus to life, lift you up and restore you to wholeness. **Amen.**

Christ, the Morning Star who never sets, scatter the shadows and fill you with light. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this night and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG
 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing ELW 389

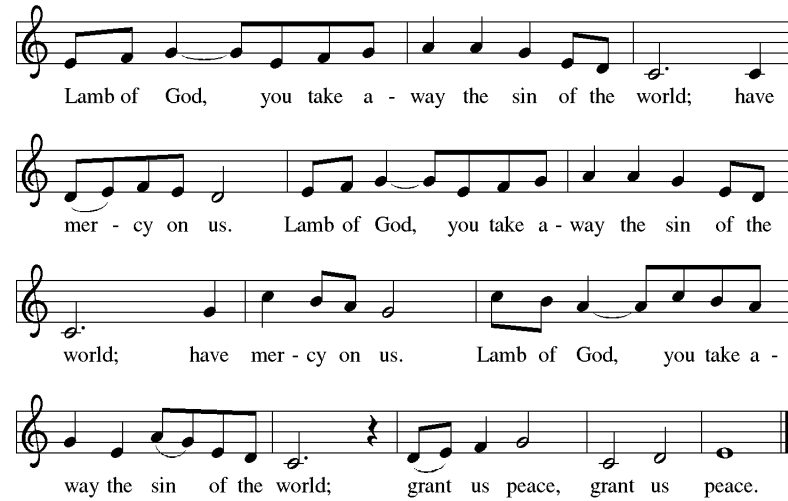
DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Christ the Lord is Risen* Steven Scott

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COMMUNION SONG



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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain ELW 363

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

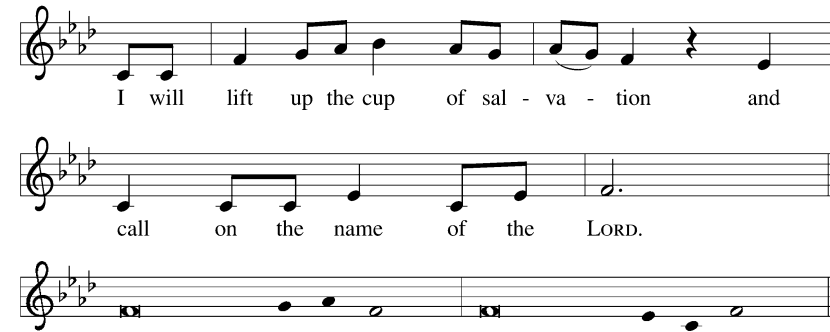


Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre - pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re - veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PSALM

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

The refrain is sung by the choir, repeated by the assembly. The psalm is sung antiphonally by the cantor and assembly, beginning with the cantor. The assembly sings the refrain where marked.



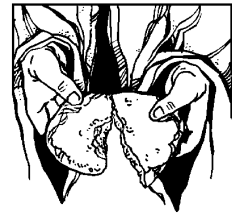
I will lift up the cup of sal - va - tion and
call on the name of the LORD.

- ¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**
¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?
¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD. R**
¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.
¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**
¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**
¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,
¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. R**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

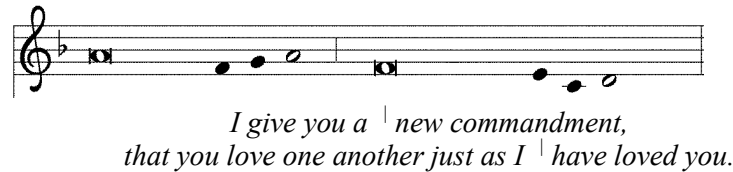
The only story from the life of Jesus that Paul recounts in detail is this report of the Last Supper. His words to the Christians at Corinth are reflected today in the liturgies of churches throughout the world.



MAUNDY comes from a Latin word: MANDATUM, which means commandment. Jesus commanded us to love one another, and above all, to love God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The choir sings "Glory and Praise" which is repeated by all. The choir then sings the proper verse; after which the assembly repeats "Glory and Praise."



GOSPEL

JOHN 13:1-17, 31B-35

The Holy Gospel according to John.



The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

Everyone is invited to participate in the washing of feet. Simply come front and sit in an empty chair and remove your shoes and socks. As one person is having their feet washed, another person can be preparing for their turn in the other empty chair. Come

HYMN OF THE DAY

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us ELW 358

FOOTWASHING

On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:
carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

COMMUNION

We stand to receive communion during the Easter Season.

We stand to receive communion during the Easter Season. To receive Holy Communion come to the altar as directed by an usher. The pastor will place the Host (bread) in your open hand; an assisting minister will offer you the wine. Wine is offered either from the common cup, or in your own small glass which you can pick up from a tray at the front of the center aisle. Trays for the used glasses are at the front of the side aisles on a window sill. If you are in doubt about any direction, please look to an usher for assistance.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,
 we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
 for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
 and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus
 who, living among us,
 healed the sick,
 fed the hungry,
 and with a love stronger than death,
 gave his life for others.

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,

I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked arr. by Moses Hogan
Soloist Ed Diel

and be part of something our Savior instructed us to do. You'll be surprised at how good it feels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, / **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly shares the Lord's peace with those nearby.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM *The Upper Room* Don Besig

OFFERTORY *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* ELW 517, vs.1

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

In response to our first being loved by God, we offer our money and volunteer our time to help other people. We also offer bread as a symbol of our daily life, and wine as a symbol of our great joy.

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.

On this night our Lord first offered bread and wine as His promise that he would always be with us. By doing this, he gave us himself. When we eat and drink at the Lord's Supper, we become His body, the body of Christ.



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, . . . And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
 Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

+++MEAL+++

CHOIR ANTHEM *Alleluia, He is Risen* Anna Laura Page

OFFERTORY HYMN *I Know That My Redeemer Lives!*
 ELW 619 vs. 1-2

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

During this time, the table is set.

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward.



HYMN *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia* ELW 364

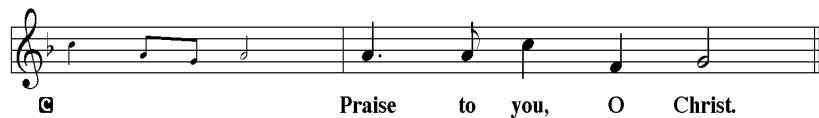
During the singing of the hymn, we move upstairs for the first communion of Easter 2012.

GOSPEL JOHN 20:1-18

The holy gospel according to John.



The gospel of the Lord.



HOMILY

Silence for reflection follows.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, / **hear our prayer.**

Passing from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life, we commend to you, gracious and ever-living God, all for whom we pray. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly shares the Lord's peace with those nearby.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.
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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.



Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

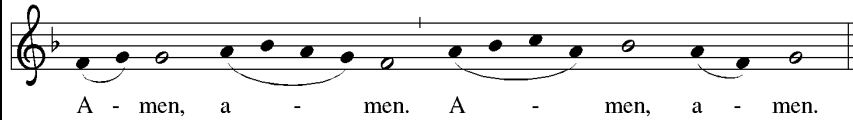


Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit.

Tonight it is as if we were with Jesus and the disciples in the upper room as he gives his body and blood.

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God,
 blessed and holy Trinity,
 now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER



tion 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 obe-
 dience 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.
Blessed be God now and forever.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, bless this water so it will be for us a re-
 minder of Christ, the Living Water. Look with love upon your Church
 and unseal for her the fountain of baptism, so that any who are sprin-
 kled with this water, or use it to remind themselves of their baptism,
 give thanks to you for your priceless gift to us.

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.
Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to con-
 tinue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
 to live among God's faithful people,
 to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
 to proclaim the good news of God in Christ
 through word and deed,
 to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
 and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support each other, and to pray for
 each other in your common life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.
 We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you
 give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir
 up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit:
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your
 presence, both now and forever.
Amen.



As we profess the faith into which we were baptized, the pastor sprinkles water on all of us gathered as a physical sign that remembers our baptism.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Blessed be God now and forever.

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.

Blessed be God now and forever.

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 resurrec-

COMMUNION

To receive Holy Communion come to the altar as directed by an usher. The pastor will place the Host (bread) in your open hand; an assisting minister will offer you the wine. Wine is offered either from the common cup, or in your own small glass which you can pick up from a tray at the front of the center aisle. Trays for the used glasses are at the front of the side aisles on a window sill.

If you are in doubt about any direction, please look to an usher for assistance.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION SONG

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. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act ELW 360

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image ELW 811

The bread and wine not consumed at this meal will be reserved for God's people in special need on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. Those two days are the only days in the whole year when we may not celebrate Holy Communion. Yet we are always ready to minister to anyone in need.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of our redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

See and reflect on how we remove everything from the place where we worship. Listen to the words of Psalm 88, which tells how Jesus was stripped of his clothing before he was taken to be crucified. We can imagine how empty and alone Jesus felt at that time.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

After the communion, the service continues with the stripping of the altar. All are invited to participate. If you chose to participate come reverently forward and form a queue at the altar rail where a member of the altar guild will direct you to what liturgical item to carry out into the adjoining vestibule. From the vestibule you may return to your seat (or the queue) through the side door.

For those who can reach them, we are also removing the pictures of The Way of the Cross at this time. Simply lift the picture from its wall hanger and carry it forward to the queue at the altar rail.

PSALM 88

Ed Diel Soloist

We depart in silence.

Please leave this booklet at the church; or bring it back with you when you return for the continuation of The Great Three Days.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL SONG:

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters ELW 445

The assembly gathers close to the font.

PRESENTATION

Dear friends, on this evening when we remember the stories of salvation, most especially the story of our Lord's Passover from death to life, it is good that we give thanks for the gift that unites us to death and resurrection of Jesus, God's son, our savior. Let us come before God and make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for *these sisters and brothers*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished *them* in the community of faith. Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

During the third part of this night we each remember our own Baptism. We remember that water can bring life and death, and in baptism we drown to our old selves, and rise as a new creation in the life of Christ.

Last night we venerated the cross. Tonight we learn how a holy bath brings us to that cross and the new life guaranteed by the One who died and rose.

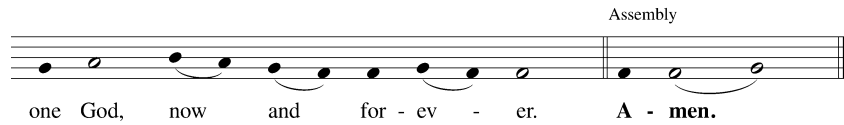
7 All who see me laugh | me to scorn;
 they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.
 8 **"Trust in the LORD; let the | LORD deliver;
 let God rescue him if God so de- | lights in him." R**
 9 Yet you are the one who drew me forth | from the womb,
 and kept me safe on my | mother's breast.
 10 **I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born;
 you were my God when I was still in my | mother's womb.**
 11 Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,
 and there is no | one to help.
 12 **Many young bulls en- | circle me;
 strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me. R**
 13 They open wide their | jaws at me,
 like a slashing and | roaring lion.
 14 **I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint;
 my heart within my breast is | melting wax.**
 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof | of my mouth;
 and you have laid me in the | dust of death.
 16 **Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers | circles round me;
 they pierce my hands | and my feet. R**
 17 I can count | all my bones
 while they stare at | me and gloat.
 18 **They divide my gar- | ments among them;
 for my clothing, | they cast lots.**
 19 But you, O LORD, be not | far away;
 O my help, hasten | to my aid.
 20 **Deliver me | from the sword,
 my life from the power | of the dog.**
 21 Save me from the | lion's mouth!
 From the horns of wild bulls you have | rescued me.
 22 **I will declare your name | to my people;
 in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you. R**
 23 You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give
 glory.
 Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.
 24 **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their pov-
 erty;
 neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them;
 but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.**
 25 From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
 I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

THE STORY OF DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA



I will sing to the LORD, who has | triumphed gloriously;
 throwing horse and rider in- | to the sea.
 The LORD is my strength | and my might,
 and has become | my salvation;
**this is my God—this God | I will praise;
 my father's God—this God I | will exalt.**
**The LORD | is a warrior;
 the LORD | is his name. R**
 The LORD hurled Pharaoh's chariots and army in- | to the sea;
 his picked officers were sunk in | the Red Sea.
 The floods | covered them;
 they went down into the depths | like a stone.
**Your right hand, O LORD, glo- | rious in power—
 your right hand, O LORD, shat- | tered the enemy.**
**In the greatness of your majesty
 you overthrew your | adversaries;
 you sent out your fury,
 t consumed | them like stubble. R**
 At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,
 the floods stood up | in a heap;
 the deeps congealed in the heart | of the sea.
 The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake,
 I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its | fill of them.
 I will draw my sword, my hand | shall destroy them."
**You blew with your wind, the sea | covered them;
 they sank like lead in the | mighty waters.**
**Who is like you, O LORD, a- | mong the gods?
 Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
 awesome in splendor, | doing wonders? R**

These stories are our family stories, because we too, are God's people. Just as we love the stories of our parents and grandparents, so we love the stories of God's family.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated. Hand-held candles may be extinguished.

READINGS FROM SALVATION HISTORY

Dear Friends in Christ, we have begun our solemn vigil. Let us now listen attentively to the Word of God, recalling how he saved his people throughout history, and, in the fullness of time, sent his Son to be our redeemer.

THE STORY OF CREATION

Hymn *When Long Before Time* ELW 861

Silent reflection.

Prayer Response

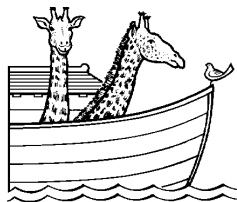
THE STORY OF NOAH AND THE FLOOD

Hymn *Thy Holy Wings* ELW 613

Silent reflection.

Prayer Response

We now begin the second section of the Easter Vigil. Here we will listen to the great stories which tell how God saves His people.



²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations. R**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

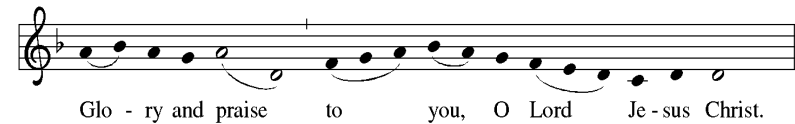
³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!" **R**

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 10:16-25

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Look to Jesus, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame,*
and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.
(Heb. 12:2)

GOSPEL

JOHN 18:1-19:42

The Holy Gospel according to John.



The gospel of the Lord.



Silence for reflection follows.

Listen to the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

On this day the church gathers to hear the proclamation of the Passion, to pray for the life of the world, and to meditate on the life-giving Cross. The ancient title for this day--the Triumph of the Cross--reminds us that the church gathers to offer thanksgiving for the wood of the tree on which hung our salvation.

Because Jesus died for everyone, we know he prayed for everyone. Each of the prayers we pray is meant to intercede for people in all walks of life.

BIDDING PRAYER

Kneel or sit.

The Assisting Minister introduces each petition, which is followed by the Presiding Minister's intercession. Each intercession ends:

...We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We pray for:

- The holy Church of God throughout the world*
- Leaders of the church and all the people of God.*
- Those preparing for Baptism*
- The unity of the church*
- The Jewish people,*
- Those who do not believe in Christ,*
- Those who do not believe in God,*
- For God's creation,*
- Those who serve in public office,*
- Those in need,*

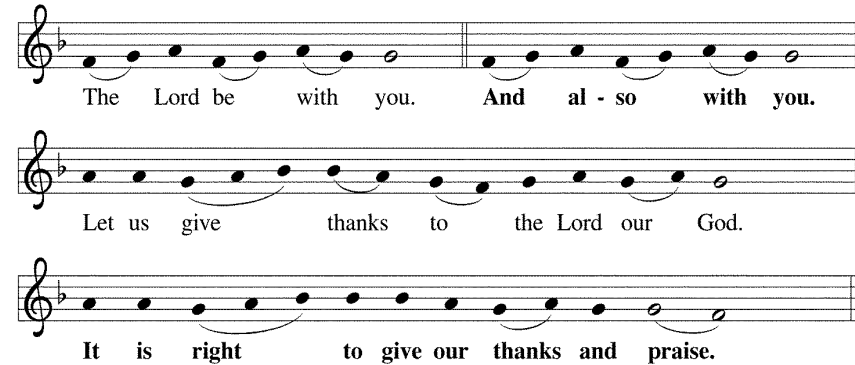
Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**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**

EASTER PROCLAMATION

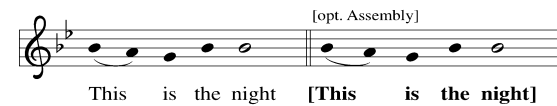
After all are in their places, the Easter Proclamation is sung. The people, holding their candles, remain standing.

*During the proclamation the following is sung as at communion:
 The Easter Proclamation ends...*



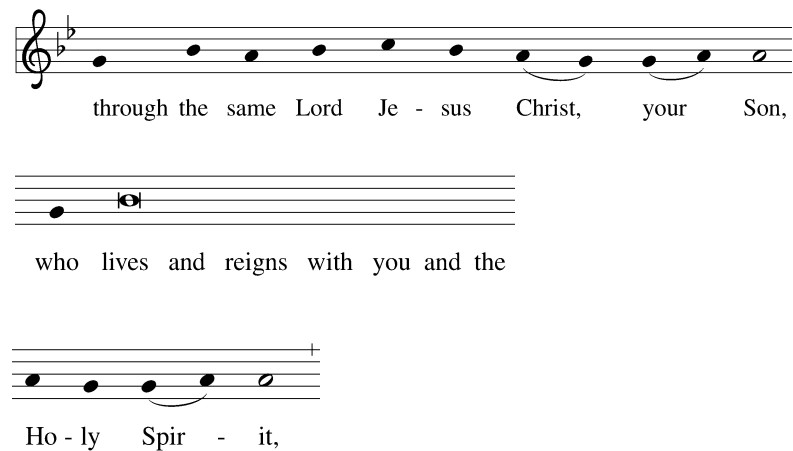
The Lord be with you. **And** al - so with you.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Six times during the Easter Proclamation the assembly responds to the cantor:



This is the night [This is the night]

The Easter Proclamation ends...



through the same Lord Je - sus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you and the
 Ho - ly Spir - it,

Listen to the excitement of the great proclamation of Easter. Jesus is alive!

The Candle is decorated with important symbols: the sign of the cross; the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet; and the number of this year of our Lord, 2012.

We follow the Paschal Candle to our places. It reminds us of how God led the Hebrew people through the desert with a pillar of fire by night. The Paschal Candle is our pillar of fire tonight.

The light of the Paschal Candle illumines the assembly as the light of Christ shines in our lives.

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

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister lights the paschal candle.

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The assisting minister lifts the candle so that all may see it.

PROCESSION

The procession begins, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle. Light from the paschal candle is passed until the people's candles are all lighted. As the procession begins, the assisting minister sings:



The procession continues, stopping at door of the church. The assisting minister lifts the paschal candle and sings on a higher tone:



The procession continues. The assisting minister takes the paschal candle to its stand, lifts it high and sings on a still higher tone:

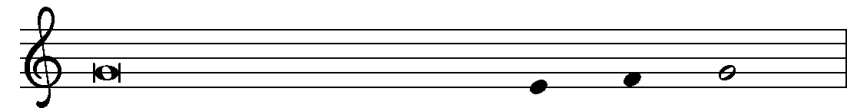


Adoration of the Cross

A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward.

The following dialogue is sung on a tone three times, the assembly echoing the leader, at the beginning, midpoint, and end of the procession.

Behold, the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.



Oh, come, let us worship him.

SOLEMN REPROACHES

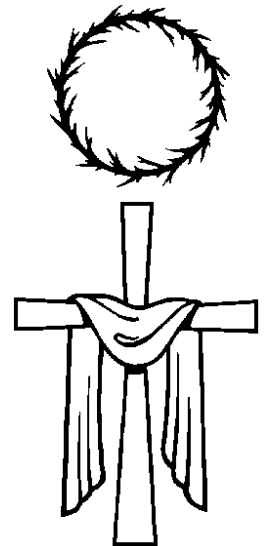
Prayer response:

Sung by the assembly before the first reproach, and after each of the seven reproaches that follow.



Through the cross, Christ triumphs over sin. Our response is to adore it for it is the most precious gift God gave us.

We see the solemn procession of the cross, which has become for us the instrument of God's victory.



Listen to the words of this prayer for all the things God has done for us.

O my people, O my church,
What more could I have done for you,
Answer me.

1. I led you out of slavery into freedom...
2. Forty years I led you through the desert...
3. I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire...
4. I planted you as my fairest vineyard...
5. I poured out saving water from the rock...
6. I gave you a royal scepter...
7. I stuck down your enemies,...
8. I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land...
9. I lifted you up to the heights...
10. I grafted you into my people Israel...
11. I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters...

And you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
(Sung:) **Holy, holy, holy God...**

The assembly may be seated. Anthems and Hymns expressing adoration of the crucified Christ may be sung. During this time, or at the end of the service, worshipers may come to the large cross to make a sign of reverence. Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or touching it.

CHOIR ANTHEM *The Shadow of the Cross* Lani Smith

HYMN *There in God's Garden* ELW 342

We adore you, O Christ, ¹ and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have re- ¹ deemed the world.

All depart in silence. The service continues tomorrow at 8:00 pm with the Great Vigil of Easter.

Please leave this booklet at the church; or bring it back with you when you return for the continuation of The Great Three Days.

Pray in your own words our thanksgiving for the most wonderful gift God, in the cross, gives us.

The Three Great Days reach its climax tomorrow evening. We gather in front of the church for the lighting of the new fire.

The Great Vigil of Easter

Blessing of the New Fire
Lighting of the 2012 Paschal Candle
Readings from Salvation History
Holy Communion

Blessing of the New Fire

INTRODUCTION

The lighting of a new fire takes place outside the church building, if possible. All gather in silence.

GREETING

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

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 oil, 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.

Let us pray.
Eternal God, in Jesus Christ
you have given the light of life to all the world.
Bless this new fire,
and 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.
Amen.

We begin again in darkness, but tonight is the most exciting night of the year.

We gather outdoors where we light a fire and bless it.

The presiding minister and the assisting ministers, vested for the Holy Communion, come and stand among the people. One of them carries the paschal candle which has been appropriately inscribed.