

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Easter Vigil

Pastor Erik Sorenson



April 19, 2025

Service of Light

Invitation

- P** Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

Collect

- 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.

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

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

the Alpha and the Omega.

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

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

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

Collect

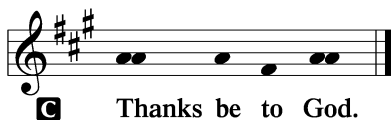
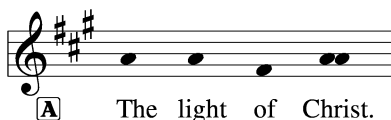
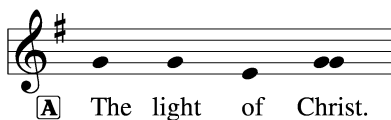
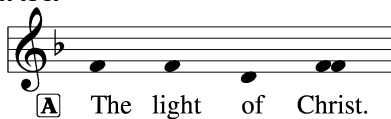
- P** Let us pray.
Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are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

At this time, everyone may come and light their candle directly from the Christ Candle. We then process into the church stopping at the entrance, the middle, and the front of the church to chant the following. You may enter your pew once the Christ Candle has passed where you would like to sit.

Please remaining standing, as you are able.

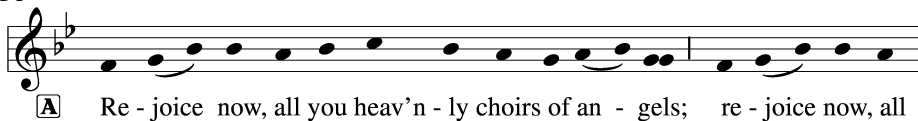
Lux Christi

("Light of Christ")



Exsultet

("Rejoice")



and made brilliant by the brightness of the ev - er-last-ing King;
 know that the an - cient dark - ness has been for - ev -
 er ban - ished. Re - joice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the
 bright-ness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with re -
 joice - ing, with the prais - es of all God's faith-ful peo - ple.

Preface

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.

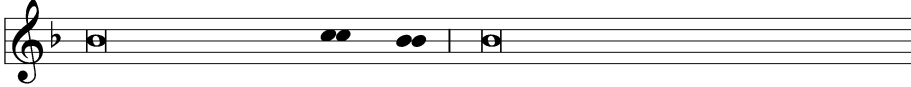


C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface



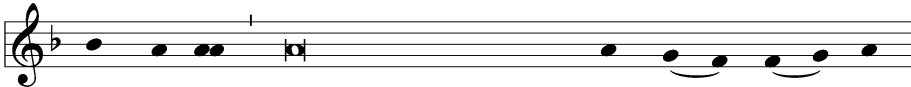
P It is truly good, right, and sal - u - tar - y that we should at all



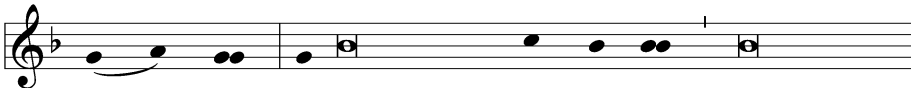
times and in all plac - es, with all our heart and mind and



voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty ev - er -



last - ing God, and Your only - be - got - ten Son, Je -



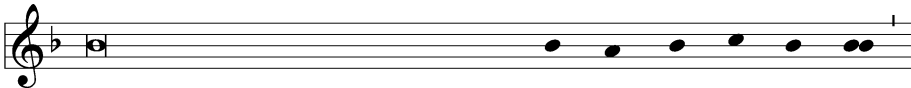
sus Christ. For He is the very Pas - chal Lamb who offered



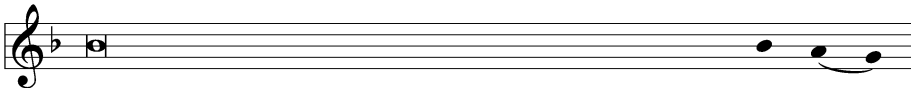
Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the



shed - ding of His pre - cious blood. This is the



night when You brought our fathers, the chil - dren of Is - ra - el,



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 bond - age to sin and are restored to life and

im - mor - tal - i - ty. This is the night when

Christ, the Life, a - rose from the dead. The seal of the grave

is broken and the morning of the new cre - a - tion breaks forth

out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your

mercy toward us, O God, that to re - deem a slave

You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wicked -

ness is put to flight and sin is washed a - way. How

holy is this night when innocence is re - stored to the fall - en

and joy is giv - en to those down - cast. How blessed

is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Ho - ly

Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanks - giv - ing
and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in
our hearts, He who gives light to all cre - a - tion, who
lives and reigns with You and the Ho - ly Spir - it, one God,
now and for - ev - er.
C A - men.

You may extinguish your candles at this time. The lights in the church have come up slightly as the Christ Candle has entered the church. We now enter the Service of Readings, where we hear the promises of salvation. Please be seated.

Service of Readings

- P** In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His Word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:3 (p. 1, p. 1 LP)

- P** A reading from Genesis, chapters one and two.

After the reading:

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

- P** Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

The Flood

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

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

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

The Testing of Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18 (p. 16, p. 20 LP)

A A reading from Genesis, chapter 22.

After the reading:

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-15:1 (p. 56, p. 71 LP)

P A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Gathering of God's People

Zephaniah 3:12-20 (p. 790, p. 1004 LP)

P A reading from Zephaniah, chapter three.

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

Look in mercy, O Lord, upon Your faithful people, and by Word and Spirit bring to completion that good work which You have begun in us. Gather in Your people that all the world may see and know that what has been cast down is raised up and what has grown old is made new, until the work You have begun in us is brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-30 (p. 739, p. 938 LP)

P A reading from Daniel, chapter three.

After the reading:

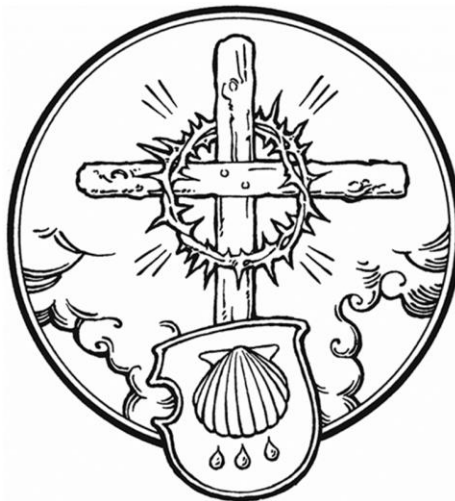
P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.



930 All You Works of God, Bless the Lord

Hymn of the Day



1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
 2 Sing, you sun and you moon a - bove,
 3 Frost of win - ter with song so cold,
 4 Hills and moun - tains, now sing His worth,



All you an - gels, now bless the Lord;
 Stars of heav - en, now sing His love;
 Dew of sum - mer, your song un - fold;
 All you green things that grow on earth;

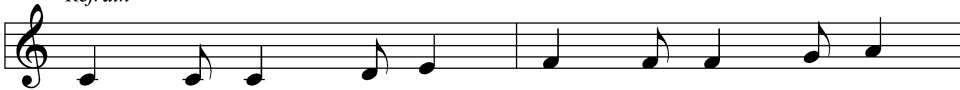


Come, you heav - ens and pow'rs that be,
 Dew and show - ers, you winds that blow,
 Light and dark - ness, you day and night,
 Seas and riv - ers, you springs and wells,



Praise the Lord and His maj - es - ty:
 Heat of fire, you ice and snow:
 Clouds of thun - der, you light - nings bright:
 Beasts and cat - tle, you birds and whales:

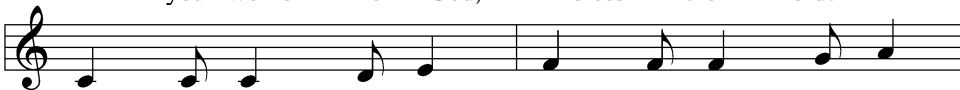
Refrain



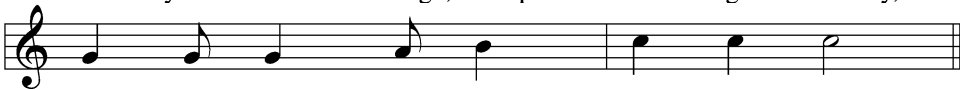
Raise your voic - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,



All you works of God, bless the Lord!



Raise your voic - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,



All you works of God, bless the Lord!

5 Come, humanity, sing along,
Sing, you people of God, a song;
Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,
Join, you spirits and souls at rest: Refrain

△ 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;
All you humble, His praise impart;
God the Father and Son adore,
Bless the Spirit forevermore! Refrain

** Please be seated.*

Service of Holy Baptism

On this night between Christ's death and resurrection, we remember our own baptism where we were joined into His death and resurrection.

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

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P Let us pray.
Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

- P** Do you renounce the devil?
C **Yes, I renounce him.**
P Do you renounce all his works?
C **Yes, I renounce them.**
P Do you renounce all his ways?
C **Yes, I renounce them.**

- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?
C **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?
C **Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

- P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
C **Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

- P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.
C **Amen.**

- P** Peace ✠ be with you.
C **Amen.**

** Please stand as you are able.*

Service of Prayer

Litany of the Resurrection

- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C **hear us.**
P Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**

- P** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who foretold Your passion saying, “The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,”
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** By Your victory over sin and death,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** By the majesty of Your risen body,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**
- P** That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
- P** That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,
C **grant us, good Lord.**

- P** That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **grant us Your peace.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy. Amen.**

Service of the Word

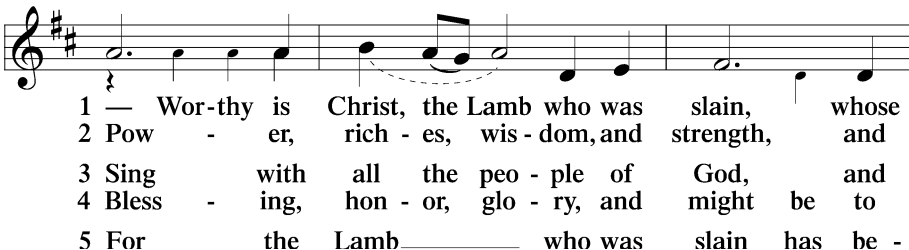
With the sun having set, we now break our Lenten fast and celebrate the full joy of Easter. The lights in the church are turned on fully allowing us to see the sanctuary decorated for our Lord's resurrection.

Easter Acclamation

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

This Is the Feast

LSB 155





blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



Final Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.

Collect of the Day

- 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 (p. 853, p. 1085 LP)

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

After the reading:

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

** Please be seated.*

Sermon

Easter Vigil Homily by St. John Chrysostom

** Please stand as you are able.*

Collect

P Let us pray.
O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus



A Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The al - mighty and mer - ci - ful Lord, the Father, the ☩ Son,



and the Holy Spir - it, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

460 Christians, to the Paschal Victim

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!
The Lamb the sheep has ransomed:
Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciling sinners to the Father.
Death and life have contended
In that combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died,
Reigns immortal.

Closing Hymn

Congregation

1 Christ is a - ris - en From the grave's dark
pris - on. So let our joy rise full and free;
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

“Speak, Mary, declaring
What you saw when wayfaring.”
“The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;
Bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
My Lord, my hope, is arisen;
To Galilee He goes before you.”

Congregation

2 Were Christ not a - ris - en, Then death were still
our pris - on. Now, with Him to life re - stored,
We praise the Fa - ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ indeed from death is risen,
Our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!

Congregation

3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia! Now let our joy rise full and free;
 Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Join us tomorrow for Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 AM and Easter Divine Service at 9:00 AM.

- **Lord's Supper on Easter:** Please take note the Lord's Supper will be offered at both the 6:30 AM Sunrise service and the 9:00 AM service.
- **Easter Breakfast:** The Youth Group will serve an Easter breakfast this year between the sunrise and Divine Service on Easter. We will plan on serving the breakfast from about 7:15-8:45 AM.

