

## Resurrection of Our Lord: Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 3, 2021

St. Michael's Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

### Introduction to the day

*This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### GREETING

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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.**

*The presiding minister may introduce and welcome the assembly to the vigil, using these or similar words.*

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.

*If it has not been burning, the new fire is lighted. The following prayer may be used. The presiding minister waits until the fire is burning before praying.*

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.**

*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.   Α Ω

To Christ belongs all time   2

and all the ages;   0

to Christ belongs glory and dominion   2

now and forever.   1

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister lights the paschal candle, using a stick or taper from the fire, and sings or says:*

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.*

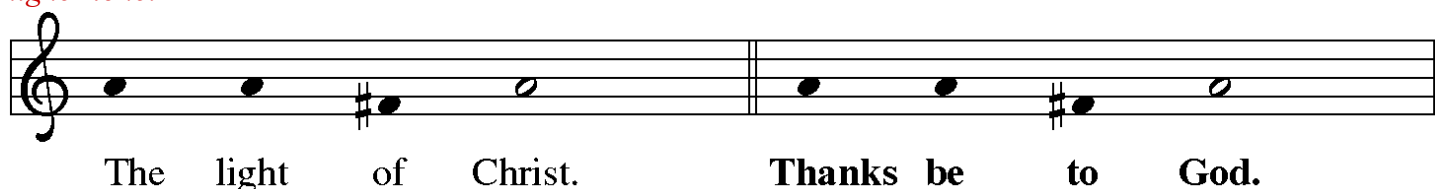
### PROCESSION

*The procession begins, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle. During or after the procession, light from the paschal candle may be passed until the people's candles are all lighted.*

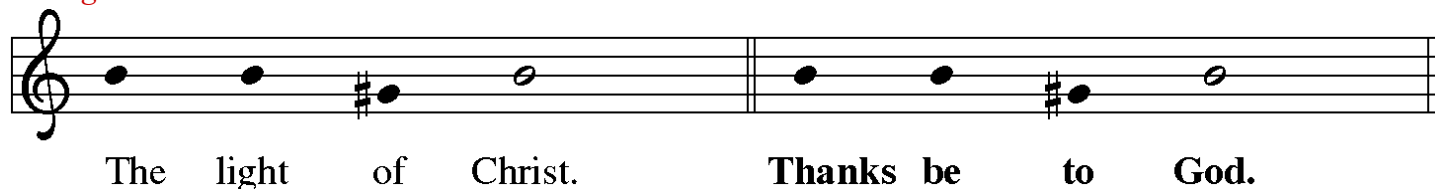
*As the procession begins, the assisting minister sings:*



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

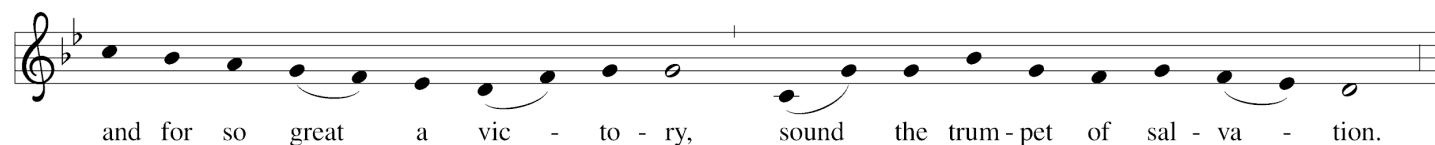
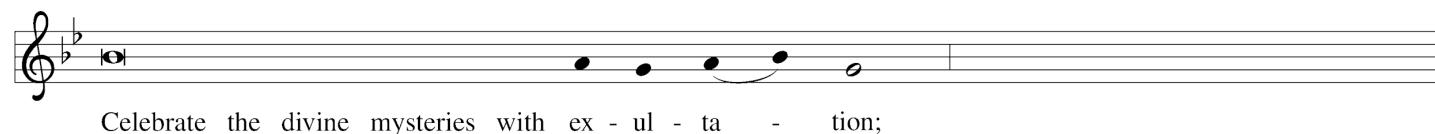
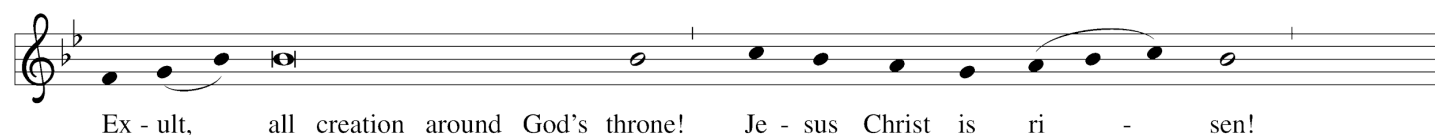
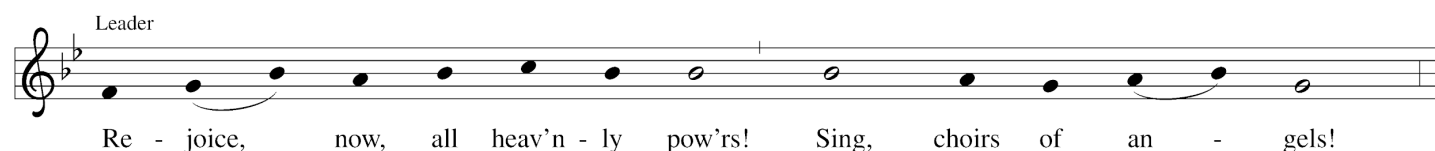


*The procession continues. The assisting minister takes the paschal candle to its stand, lifts it high and sings on a still higher tone:*

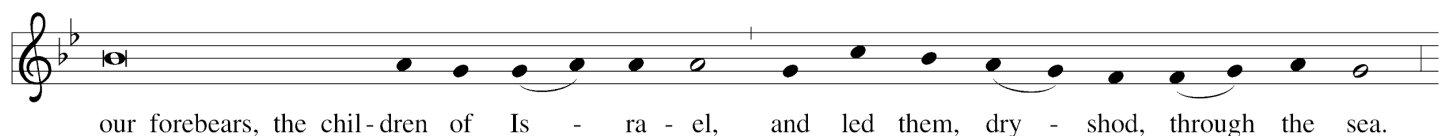
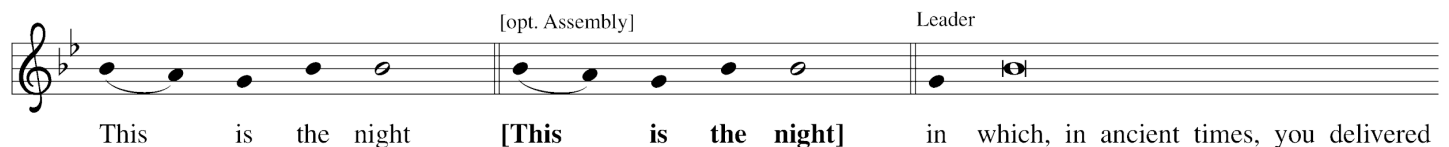
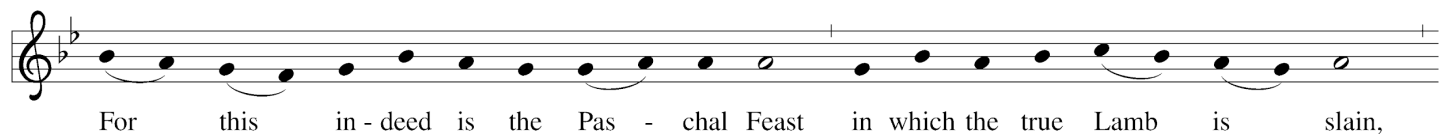
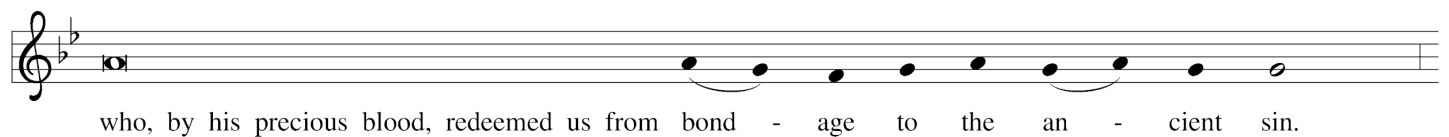
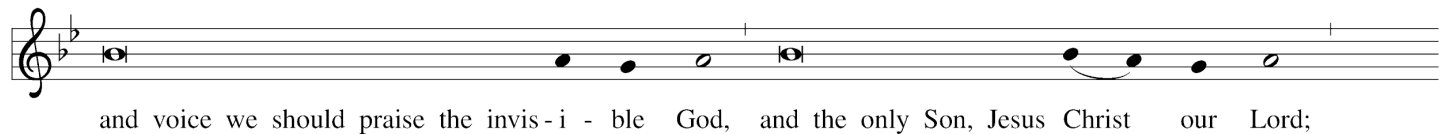
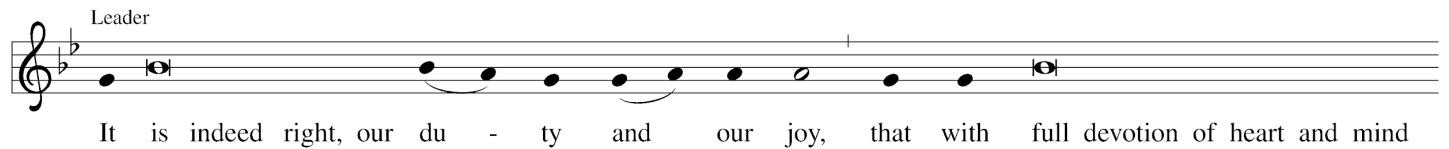
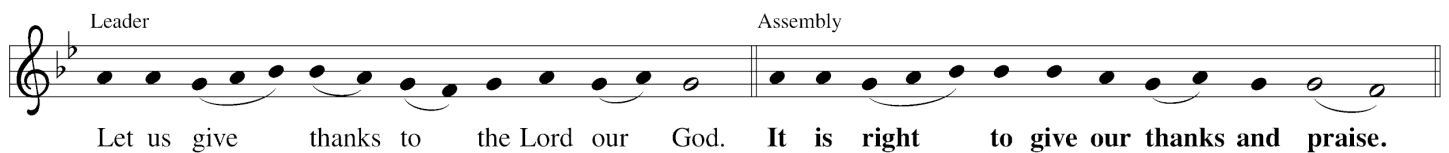
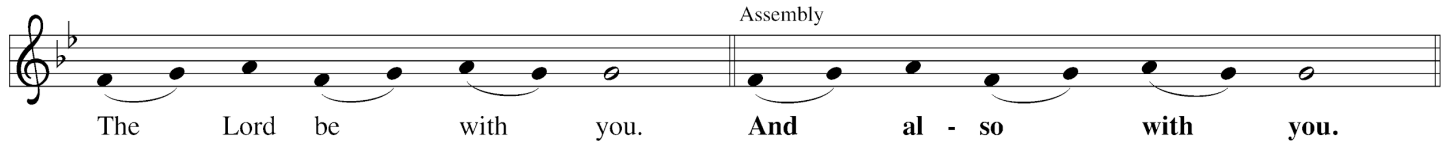
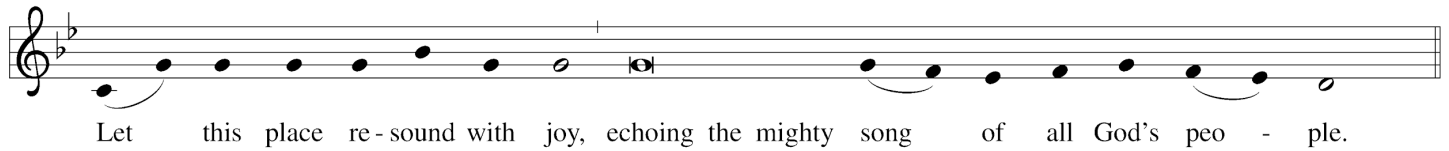
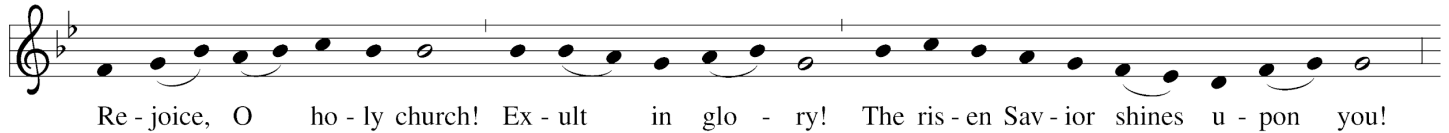


*The paschal candle is placed in its stand.*

## EASTER PROCLAMATION



*An assisting minister sings the Easter proclamation. Text in brackets (the optional assembly responses) may be omitted.*



[opt. Assembly] Leader  
This is the night [This is the night] in which the darkness of sin has been

purged away by the ris - ing bright - ness.

[opt. Assembly] Leader  
This is the night [This is the night] in which all who believe in Christ are

rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are re - newed in grace, and are re - stored to ho - li - ness.

[opt. Assembly] Leader  
This is the night [This is the night] in which, breaking the chains of death,

Christ arises from hell in tri - umph. O night tru - ly blessed

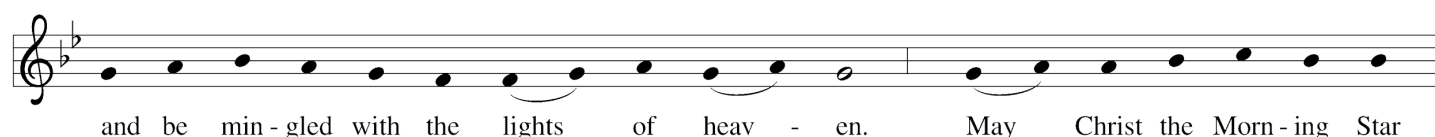
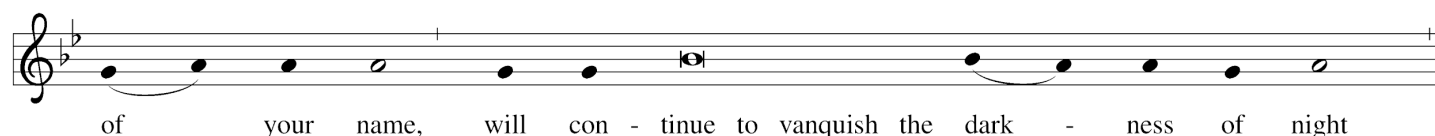
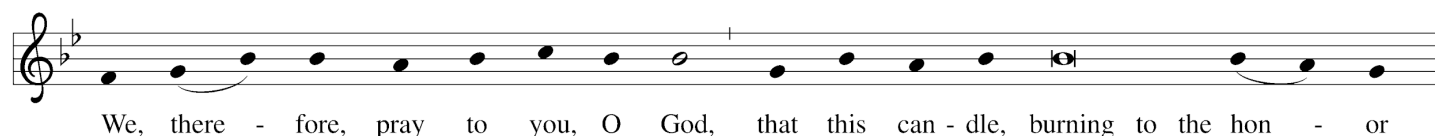
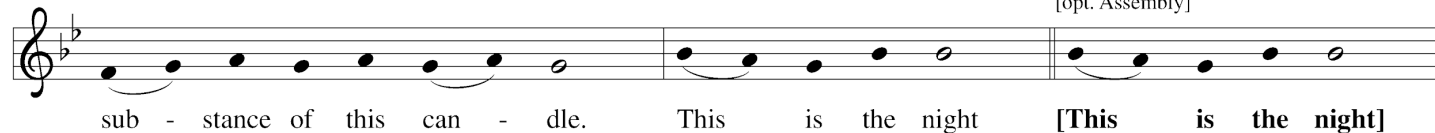
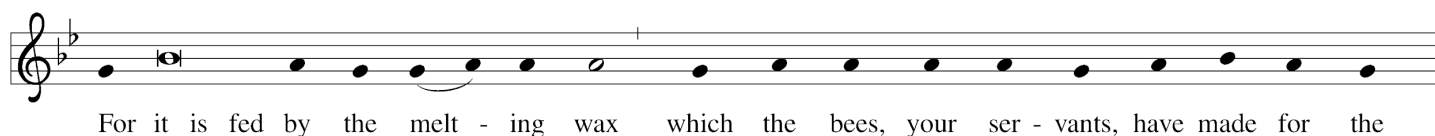
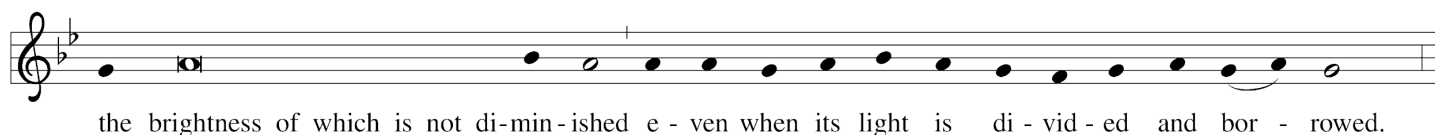
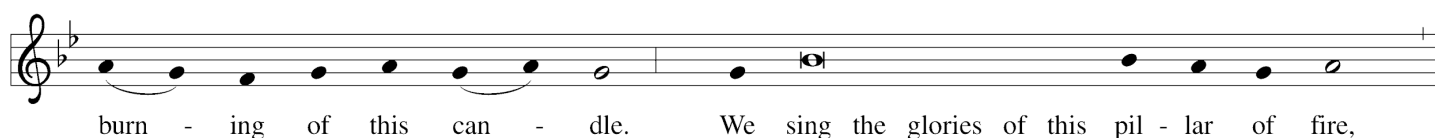
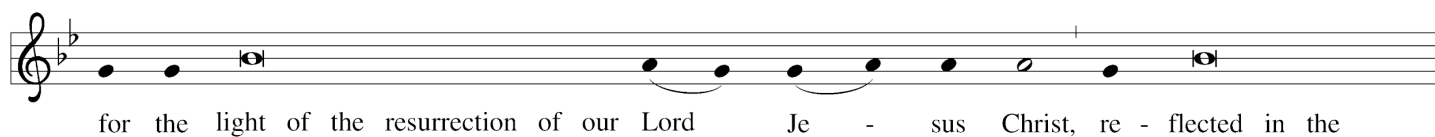
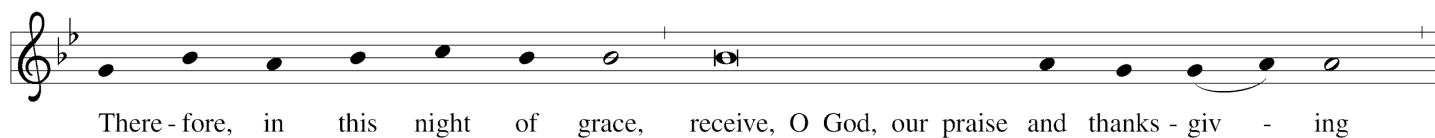
which a - lone was worthy to know the time and the hour in which Christ a - rose a - gain from hell!

[opt. Assembly] Leader  
This is the night [This is the night] of which it is written: "The night is as clear as the day,"

and, "then shall my night be turned in - to day." The holiness of this night

puts to flight the deeds of wick - ed - ness; wash - es a - way sin;

re - stores innocence to the fall - en, and joy to those who mourn;



find it burn - ing, that Morn - ing Star who nev - er sets,  
 that Morning Star who, rising from the grave, faithfully sheds light on the whole hu - man race.  
 And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection  
 your whole church, giving us peace in this time of our pas - chal re - joic - ing;  
 through the same Lord Je - sus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, one God, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the 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.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## VIGIL READINGS

*Each reading may be followed by a sung response. After the response there is silence for reflection, followed by a prayer.*

### FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1--2:4a

*Creation*

#### Prayer

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 the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SECOND READING: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21***Deliverance at the Red Sea***Prayer**

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 offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.****THIRD READING: Isaiah 55:1-11***Salvation freely offered to all***Prayer**

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.****FOURTH READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14***Valley of the dry bones***Prayer**

Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.****FIFTH READING: Jonah 1:1--2:1***The deliverance of Jonah***Prayer**

O God of deliverance, you saved Jonah through the waters of death, and after three days you brought him to new life. Speak to us by this sign, and call us to repentance, that we may heed the voice of your risen Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.****SIXTH READING: Daniel 3:1-29***Deliverance from the fiery furnace***Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.****NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 6:3-11***The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*The reading may be concluded:*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: John 20:1-18**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So 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.” <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

<sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They 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.” <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” 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.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because 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.’” <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**SERMON**



## HYMN OF THE DAY

# We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

Text © John B. Geyer.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*These prayers are adapted from the ELCA Worship Blog "Worship in the Home" for Saturday, April 3, 2021*

On this most holy night, we pray that God renew the world with the joy of new life, responding to each petition with the psalm's refrain, "Your mercy endures forever."

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, for all who serve in the church, and for the newly baptized, that the light of Christ illumine us.

Grant us your life, O God our light:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

We pray for the earth, that your creative might repair all that has been harmed, and that we treasure what you have provided.

Grant us your life, O God our maker:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

We pray for the nations of the world, that war and violence cease, that you liberate all who are oppressed, and that justice be granted to the dispossessed in every land.

Grant us your life, O God our refuge:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

We pray for all who suffer from COVID, that the pandemic will abate, and that human societies will be restored to health and safety.

Grant us your life, O God, our strength and our song:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

We pray for all who are sick and for all who are suffering, that they find remedy for their distress, and that they be brought to wholeness in you.

Grant us your life, O God our stronghold:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

We praise you for carrying all the faithful of the ages from death to life with Christ. Bring us at our end with them to rejoice at your everlasting banquet.

Grant us your life, O God our Spirit:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

To you, living and loving God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one with whom we have been raised to new life, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## **MEAL**

***God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.***

## **OFFERING**

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

*During this time, the table is set. Assembly song or other music may accompany or follow the gathering of the offering (#181–188).*

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

## **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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

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

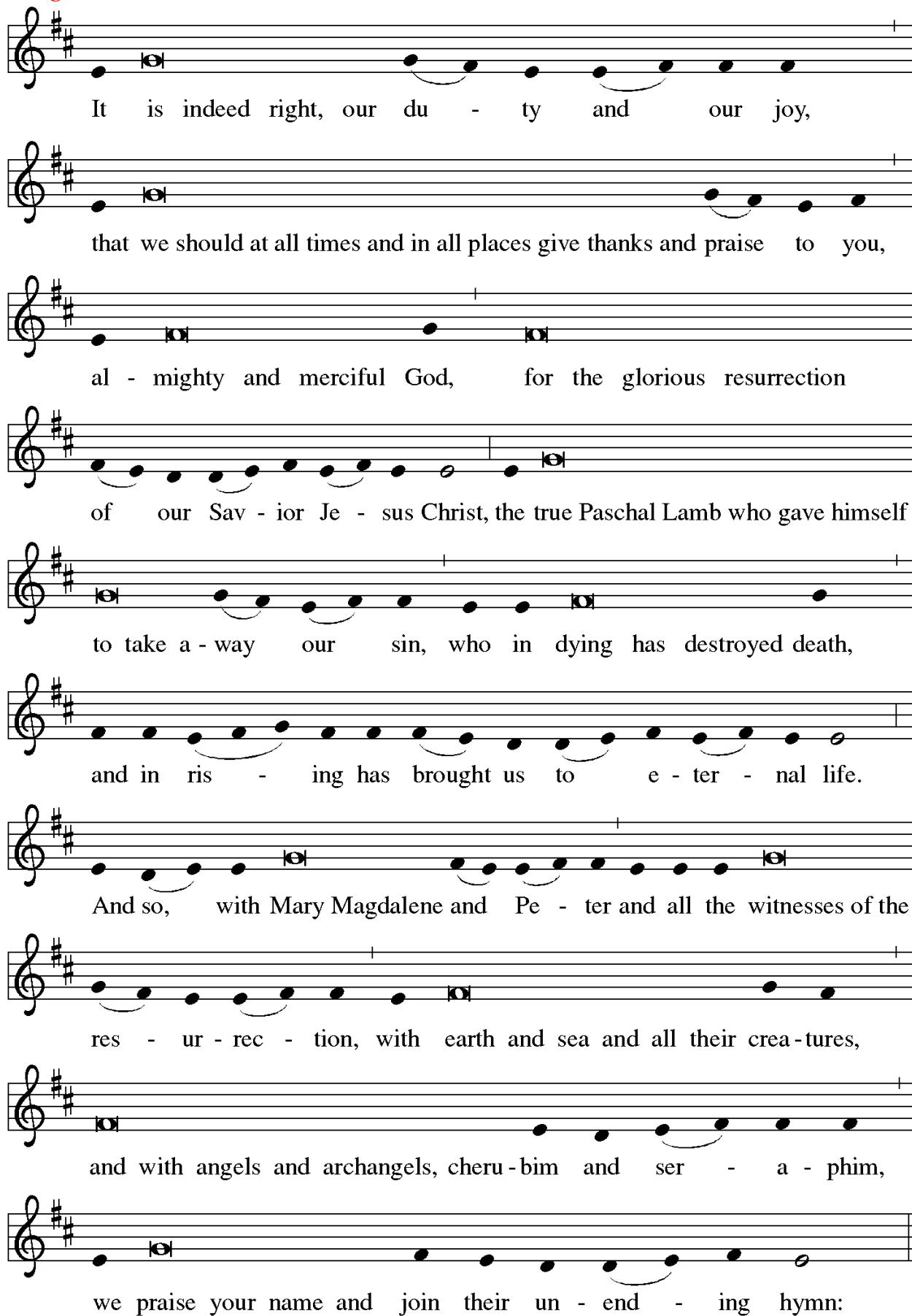
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

*The presiding minister continues:*



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection  
of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself  
to take a - way our sin, who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in ris - ing has brought us to e - ter - nal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the  
res - ur - rec - tion, with earth and sea and all their crea - tures,  
and with angels and archangels, cheru - bim and ser - a - phim,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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 God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;  
you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light;  
you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image,  
and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,  
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life,  
whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,  
receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,  
and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table.  
Come, eat and be satisfied.

## COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

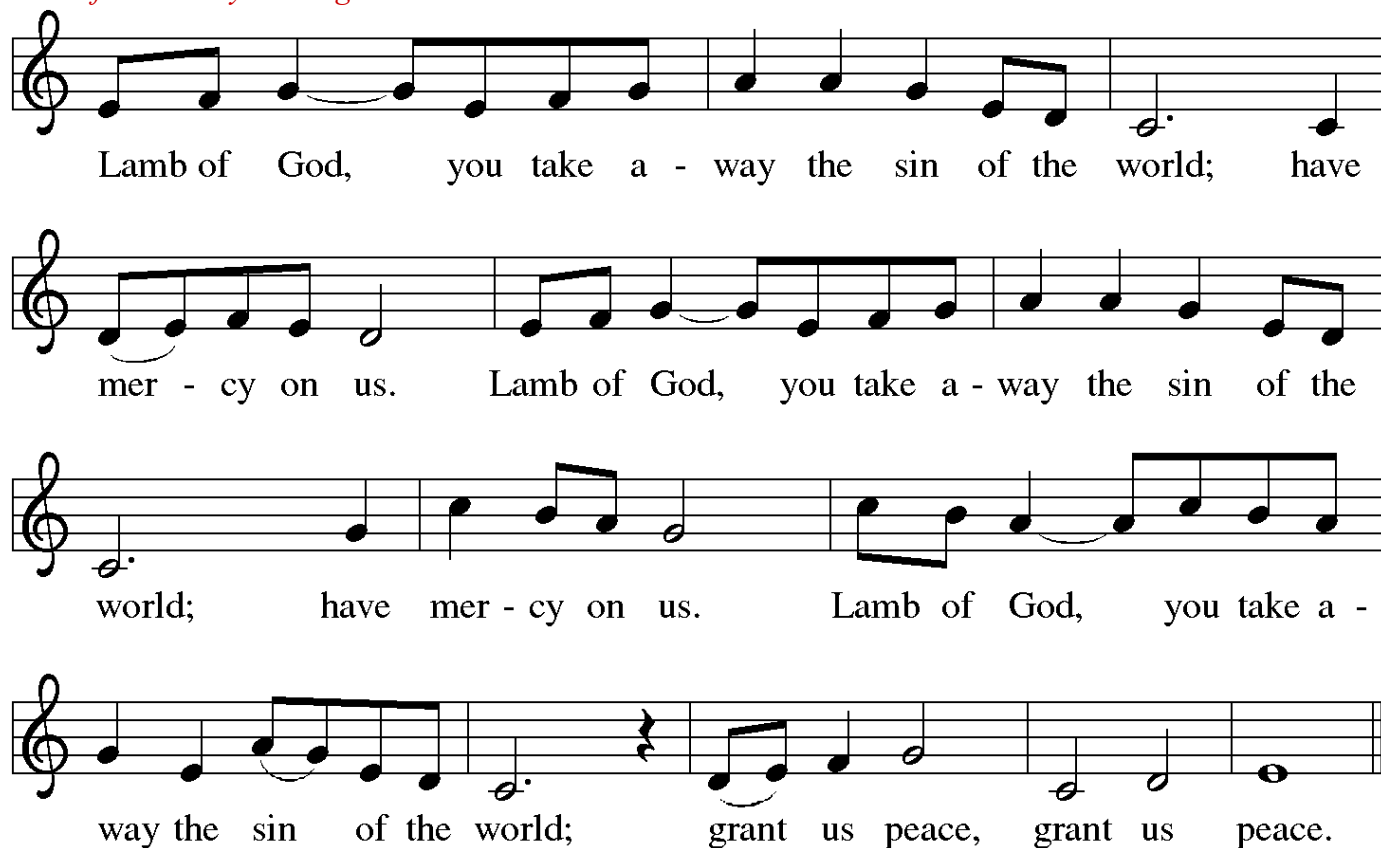
*and each person may respond*

Amen.

*The ministers commune either after or before others commune.*

## COMMUNION SONG

*"Lamb of God" may be sung.*



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef. The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating where a single note spans multiple syllables. The song is a three-part setting of the 'Agnus Dei'.

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.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy,  
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## ***SENDING***

***God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.***

### **BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG**

### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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# Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708