

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Easter Vigil ~ Saturday April 4, 2026

GATHERING

*The service begins in darkness. The lighting of a new fire takes place outside the church.
All gather in silence.
A candle is given to each worshiper.*

Greeting

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

P: Siblings 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

The presiding minister traces the inscription on the paschal candle.

P: Christ, yesterday and today,	✝
the beginning and the ending.	A Ω
To Christ belongs all time	2
and all the ages;	0
to Christ belongs glory and dominion	2
now and forever.	6

C: Amen.

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

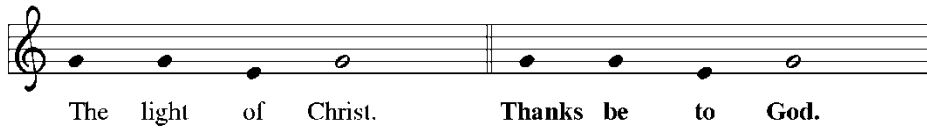
P: The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

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 the procession, light from the paschal candle is passed until the people's candles are all lit.

As the procession begins, the assisting minister sings:



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in treble clef. The first measure contains four notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second measure contains four notes: D5, E5, F5, and G5. The lyrics "The light of Christ." are aligned under the first measure, and "Thanks be to God." are aligned under the second measure.

The procession continues, stopping at midpoint.

The assisting minister lifts the paschal candle and sings on a higher tone:



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in treble clef. The first measure contains four notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second measure contains four notes: D5, E5, F5, and G5. The lyrics "The light of Christ." are aligned under the first measure, and "Thanks be to God." are aligned under the second measure.

The procession continues.

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



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in treble clef. The first measure contains four notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second measure contains four notes: D5, E5, F5, and G5. The lyrics "The light of Christ." are aligned under the first measure, and "Thanks be to God." are aligned under the second measure.

The paschal candle is placed in its stand.

Easter Proclamation

Please sit as needed. This section is quite long

Leader

Re - jice, now, all heav'n - ly pow'rs! Sing, choirs of an - gels!

Ex - ult, all creation around God's throne! Je - sus Christ is ri - sen!

Celebrate the divine mysteries with ex - ul - ta - tion;

and for so great a vic - to - ry, sound the trum - pet of sal - va - tion.

Re - jice, O earth, in shin - ing splen - dor, ra - dian - t in the bright - ness of your king!

Christ has con - quered! Glo - ry fills you! Dark - ness van - ish - es for - ev - er.

Re - jice, O ho - ly church! Ex - ult in glo - ry! The ris - en Sav - ior shines u - pon you!

Let this place re - sound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's peo - ple.

Assembly

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

Leader Assembly

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy, that with full devotion of heart and mind



and voice we should praise the invis-i - ble God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;



who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bond - age to the an - cient sin.



For this in - deed is the Pas - chal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,



by whose blood the doorposts of the faith - ful are made ho - ly.



This is the night [This is the night] in which, in ancient times, you delivered



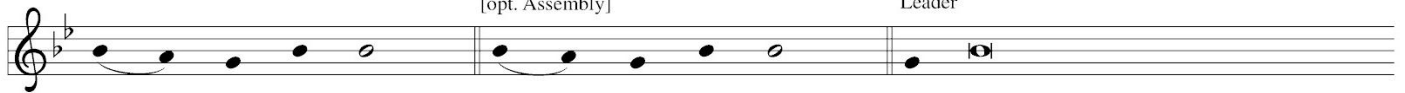
our forebears, the chil - dren of Is - ra - el, and led them, dry - shod, through the sea.



This is the night [This is the night] in which the darkness of sin has been



purged away by the ris - ing bright - ness.



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.



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!

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;

casts out hate; brings peace; and hum - bles earth - ly pride.

There - fore, in this night of grace, receive, O God, our praise and thanks - giv - ing

for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Je - sus Christ, re - flected in the

burn - ing of this can - dle. We sing the glories of this pil - lar of fire,

the brightness of which is not di - min - ished e - ven when its light is di - vid - ed and bor - rowed.

For it is fed by the melt - ing wax which the bees, your ser - vants, have made for the

[opt. Assembly]



sub - stance of this can - dle. This is the night [This is the night]

Leader



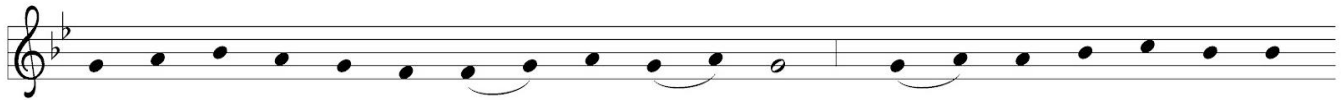
in which heaven and earth are joined—things hu - man and things di - vine.



We, there - fore, pray to you, O God, that this can - dle, burning to the hon - or



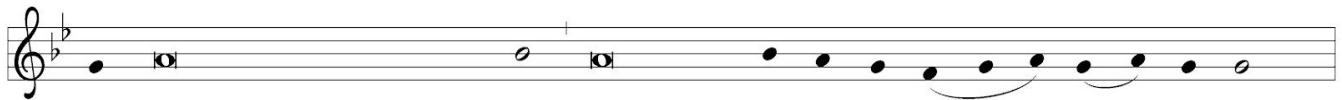
of your name, will con - tinue to vanquish the dark - ness of night



and be min - gled with the lights of heav - en. May Christ the Morn - ing Star



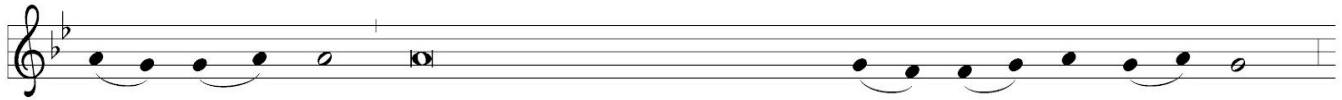
find it burn - ing, that Morn - ing Star who nev - er sets,



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

Assembly



Ho - ly Spir - it, one God, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God,

C: you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

A: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it

was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

First Prayer

A: Let us pray. Almighty God,

C: 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.

Fourth Reading: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

A: As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord.

¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³ But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶ But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

^{15:20} Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹ And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Fourth Prayer

A: Let us pray. O God,

C: 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.

Fifth Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

A: Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Fifth Prayer

A: Let us pray. Holy God,

C: 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.

Eighth Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

A: The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord

God, you know.”⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

Eighth Prayer

A: Let us pray. Living God,

C: 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.

Tenth Reading: Jonah 1:1 - 2:1

A: Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying,² “Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.”³ But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

⁴ But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up.⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the

ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. ⁶The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish."

⁷The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, "Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" ⁹"I am a Hebrew," he replied. "I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them so.

¹¹Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." ¹³Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. ¹⁴Then they cried out to the Lord, "Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." ¹⁵So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

¹⁷But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

^{2:1} Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish.

Tenth Prayer

A: Let us pray. O God of deliverance,

C: 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.

Twelfth Reading: Daniel 3:1-29

A: King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and

all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³ So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴ the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." ⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷ If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, ²⁰ and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹ So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²² Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." ²⁵ He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

Twelfth Prayer

A: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God,

C: 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

A: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore 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.

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


A: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Assembly invited to stand.


Gospel Acclamation

As the lights in the church are turned up, the altar candles are lit, bells are rung.


Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,




al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb




who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

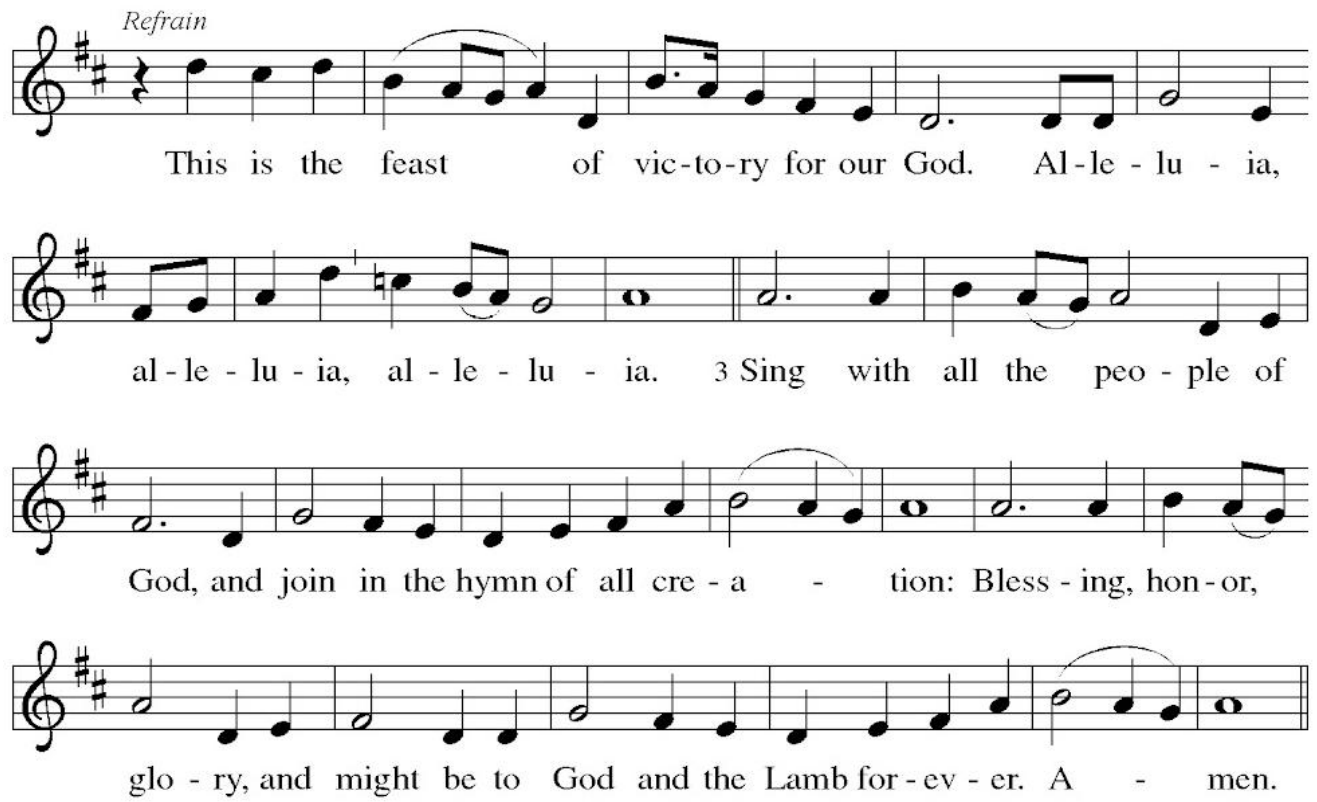


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



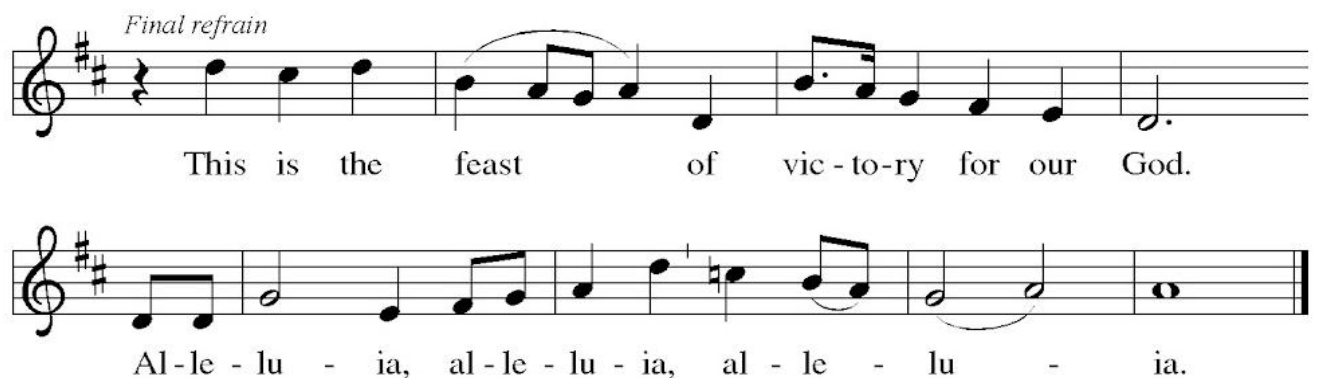
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-8

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

A: 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. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and 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. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus 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.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

P: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

The assembly is invited to stand.

Hymn of the Day: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" Screen or ELW #392



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Nicene Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith in God using the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Holy God, we come to you in prayer for the church, your good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: You unite all the baptized in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Empower the church to proclaim your redeeming love for all the world, and bless all who are newly welcomed into the body of Christ. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In the beginning, you breathed life into the world. Fill your creation with the spirit of life, that all the waters and dry lands, all the vegetation and creatures of air, sea, and land might flourish. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You delivered your people from slavery into freedom. Release all who are bound by unjust systems; transform the evils of white supremacy, patriarchy, and all forms of oppression, that every person flourishes in wholeness and new life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You call to the waters all who thirst. Hear the cries of your people, comfort those who weep, console all who grieve, and bring healing to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially Deanna Wilson, Eva Cowley, Deb Liebzeit, Connie Laidig, Chase Flynn, LaDonna Groshans, Peg Miller, David Weaver, Judy Hallquist, Joyce Snyder, Caroly & Jim Marshall, Carol Moats, Jesse, Jasslyn, Rick, Letty, Harry, Bill, Ethan, Gretchen, Thelma, the Mighell (Miles) family, the family of Justin Wiggins and those we name aloud or in our hearts... *brief silence....*
God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You delight in the generations. Bless children and elders alike as they discover the central stories of our faith, and energize storytellers in their sharing in worship and at home. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You welcome your saints to eternal rest at your side. We sing in thanksgiving for all the faithful departed and entrust them to your care, until we join them in the life everlasting. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

Offering Song: "Christ has Arisen, Alleluia" Screen or ELW# 364 vv. 1-3



M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,
 1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.



m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.
 Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
 un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.



A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,
 For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go,
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.



m - si - fu - ni sa - sa - yu ha - i.
 e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 and in its con - quest his might did show.
 On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

Refrain



Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.
 Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.
 Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;
 Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su yu ha - i.
 Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
 Music: MPURAHINI, HALELUYA, Tanzanian traditional
 Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Tr. © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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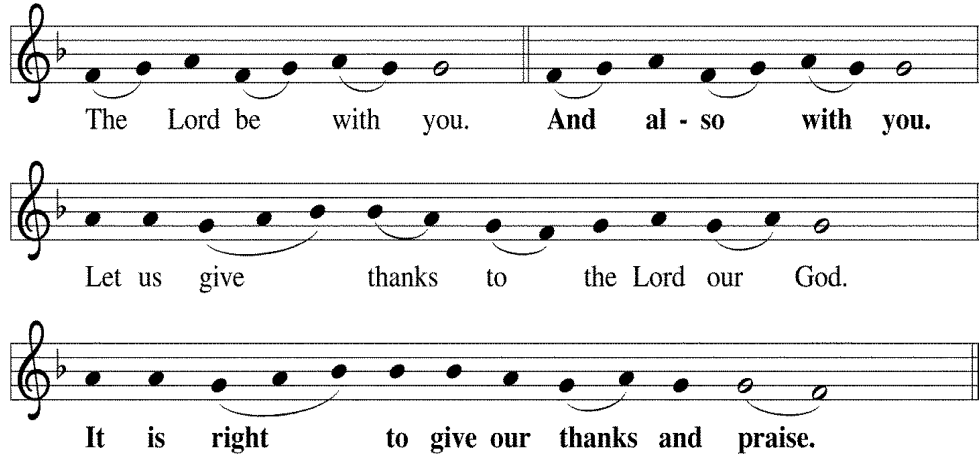
The assembly is invited to stand.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. Risen One,

C: you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

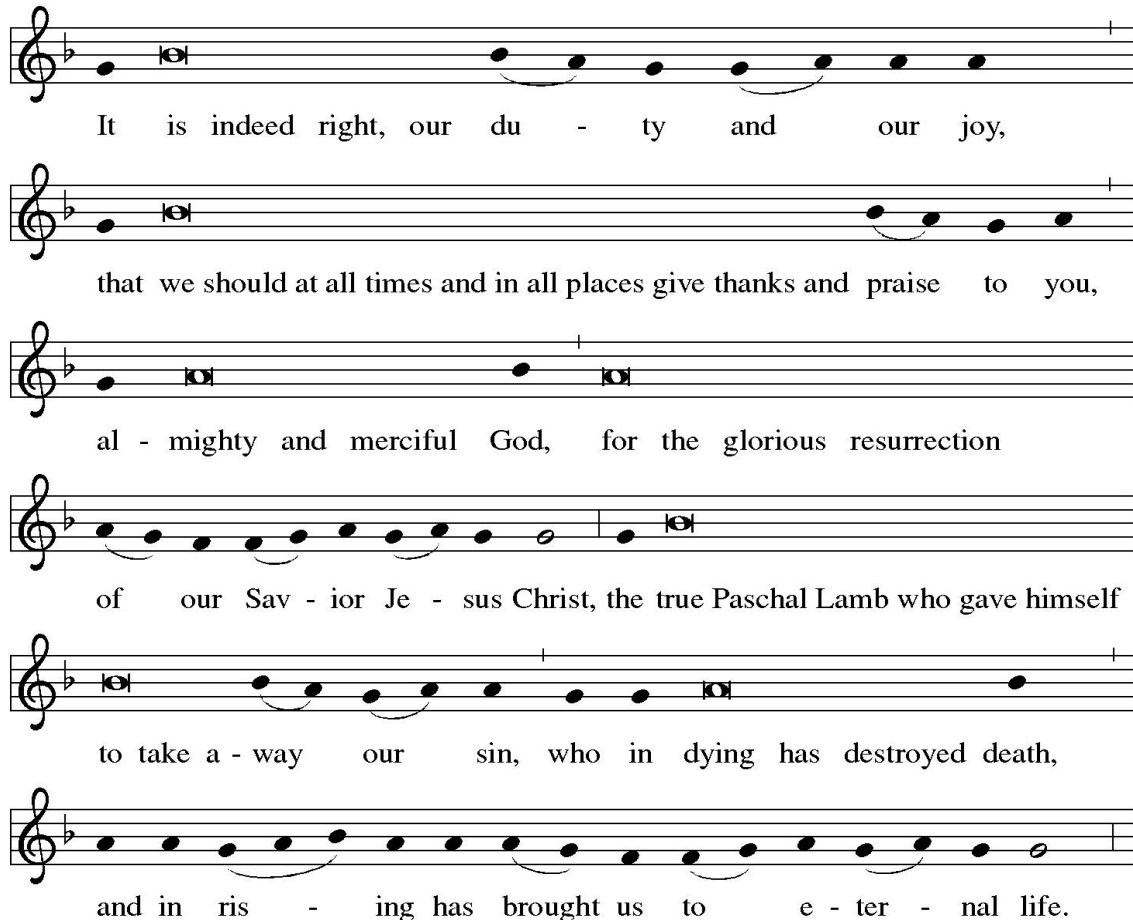


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface



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'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. 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

P: We give you thanks, Father,
 through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
 whom you sent in this end of the ages
 to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,
 through whom you created all things,
 and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.
He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

Distribution of Holy 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." Each person may respond, "amen".

St. Paul Lutheran Church and the ELCA practice "open table" communion. This is Christ's table; Jesus is our host. Everyone is invited and welcome to receive Holy Communion!

Communion Song: "Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

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

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

sin of the world; grant us peace.

"Woman, Weeping in the Garden"

Screen



1 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, who has
 2 Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den, af - ter
 3 Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den, Je - sus
 4 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, weep for
 5 Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den, find the



pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en Je - sus'
 men have come and gone, af - ter an - gels give their
 takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - d'ner calls you,
 joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes - si - ah,
 oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en as he



bod - y, Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied?
 wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.
 "Mar - y!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.
 ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.
 prom - ised; tell the world he knew your name!

Text: Daniel Charles Damon, b. 1955

Music: CEDARWOLF, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

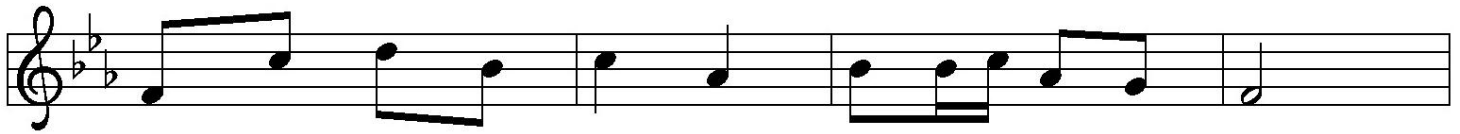
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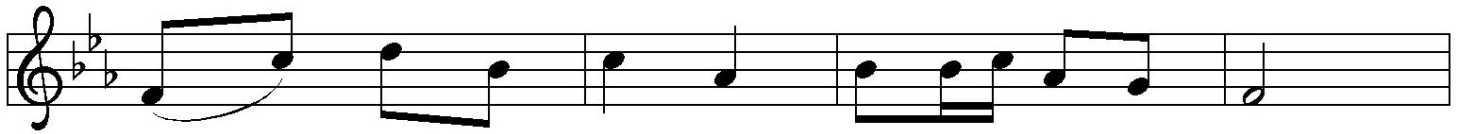
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“Now the Green Blade Rises”

Screen or ELW #379



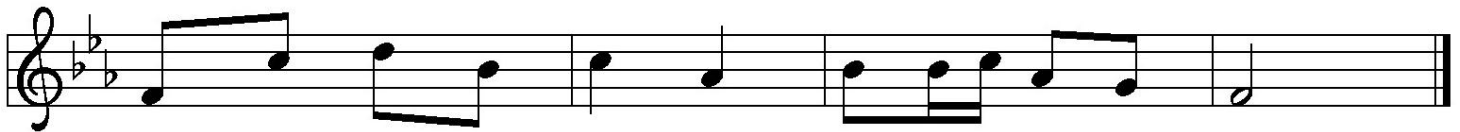
1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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The assembly is invited to stand.

Post Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Living One,

C: in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song: "Christ has Risen While the Earth Slumbers" Screen

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Leading Worship

President: Pastor Riley **Preacher:** Pastor Anthony

Assisting Minister: The Rev. Mary Ann Rhoades, Retired Deacon, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Musician: Carla Anderson **Worship Assistant:** Lester Hallquist

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St. Paul Announcements

Church Office contact information ~ email: office@stpauldixon.org phone: 815-288-2757

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Pastor Anthony Windau (414) 364-9504 pastoragwindau@gmail.com

Pastor Riley Reed-Windau (406) 240-2145 pastorreedwindau@gmail.com

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 4/5:	Easter Egg / Scavenger Hunt 10:00 am Easter Worship Service 11:00 am worship assistant: Joyce Craney
Monday, 4/6:	Church Office Closed Property Committee 6:00 pm
Tuesday, 4/7:	Joint Staff Meeting 9:00 am at Immanuel Line Dancing 9:00 am Praise Band rehearsal 5:30 pm
Wednesday, 4/8:	WELCA Coffee 9:00 am Finance Committee meeting 2:30 pm

Today's worship is
livestreamed on Facebook
and archived on YouTube.
If ever you miss a service,
you can join us online!

Thursday, 4/9:

Friday 4/10:

Saturday, 4/11:

Sunday, 4/12:

Chair Yoga 11:00 am

Liberty Court Worship 1:30 pm

Worship 5:30 pm at St. Paul worship assistant: Glen Hughes

Youth Committee 9:15 am

Sunday School/Youth Group 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Worship Service 10:45 am Praise Band worship assistant: Sherry McCarter

LSSI Good Shepherd Sunday

Executive Committee

EASTER EGG HUNT
&
"LIFE-OF-JESUS" SCAVENGER HUNT

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5

He is RISEN!

- Scavenger hunt 10am
- Egg hunt 10:30am

The poster features five illustrations: Jesus with a sheep, Jesus with wheat, Jesus holding a scroll, Jesus in prayer, and a cross with a purple sash.

The St. Paul Church Office will be closed on Monday April 6th

WELCA
Coffee

Wednesday,
April 8th
9:00 am



WELCA
 IS HOSTING A
"TRIP TO CHINA"
PRESENTATION

WELCA is hosting a "Trip to China" presentation. Pastor Leo and Linda Patterson will be sharing about their exciting trip to China. Stories and pictures will be included in the program. Thursday, April 16th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul Lutheran, Dixon. Sesame cake and tea will be served. Also coffee. Please join us and everyone is welcome.

The poster has a decorative background with a pattern of small circles and includes illustrations of red lanterns and cherry blossoms.