

The Triduum - Three Holy Days

Maundy Thursday ~ April 6, 7:00 P.M. Beginning on Page 1

Good Friday ~ April 7, 7:00 P.M. Beginning on Page 11

Vigil of Easter ~ April 8, 4:00 P.M. Beginning on Page 16

Welcome to Our Guests

We welcome you in the name of Christ. We love welcoming guests/visitors and encourage you to complete one of the blue cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering basket, or scan this QR Code with your smart phone to complete the visitor card digitally. We have a gift for you at our Welcome Desk – please stop by after worship. You are invited to join in all parts of worship. Everything you need is printed in this worship booklet.



All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing! For instructions on how to receive the bread and wine, see the Communion sections later in this booklet. Portions of worship in bold print are to be spoken by the whole congregation. We stand for portions of our worship service. Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be live-streamed. Digital ministry is an essential part of our community with the Wellstream services allowing those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a service of Holy Communion. The cameras will be primarily focused on our worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the sanctuary. If you have questions or concerns about appearing on camera, contact Pastor Alex or Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org).

Amplification devices for the hearing impaired are available from ushers or at the Welcome Desk. Our nursery for newborns to age five is open and staffed for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (the Easter Vigil is a family-friendly service where small children are welcome to participate). Masks are optional but welcome. Please be mindful of others' comfort level with distance and touch (handshakes, etc.). A restroom is located at the north end of the Gathering Area (additional restrooms downstairs).

The Three Days

Maundy Thursday is the beginning of the Triduum—the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and brings them with him to resurrection life. The Three Days is one liturgy, one worship service, extending from Thursday evening through the Easter Vigil. Conform your life to the worship rhythms of the church this week. Do whatever you can to honor Holy Week and the Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil. We gather with Christians around the world to celebrate and remember. On Maundy Thursday, we heed Christ's commandment to love one another—we wash each other's feet and share the meal he instituted. On Friday, we hear the passion of Christ, the narrative of Jesus crucified and reigning from the cross. This service continues to the Easter Vigil—the night, the very night, the passover of Christ from death to life. This is the high point of the church's year, the night the church welcomes new Christians by baptism, lights the first of the resurrection candles, and celebrates the first Easter Holy Communion.

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

Pastor Lauren Eanes

Open # Authentic # Relational # Serving **Pastor Alex Zuber**



Maundy Thursday

April 6 ~ 7:00 P.M.

On this night we begin the Great Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (mandatum, from which Maundy comes) to love one another. As a sign of our calling to follow Jesus' example of humility and service, we may wash one another's feet as Jesus washed the disciples' feet. On this night in which Jesus was handed over to death we recall the Last Supper by gathering at the Lord's Table. At the service's conclusion, the chancel is stripped of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' betrayal and abandonment.

Individual Absolution

Following the confession and absolution, you are invited to come forward to the altar rail and kneel as able or stand for a pronouncement of individual forgiveness by the pastor. Beginning from the center of the rail outward, worshippers should approach and leave in continuous fashion so that a flow is established.

Foot Washing

To remember our Lord's call to servanthood, after the Hymn of the Day the assembly is invited to participate in foot washing. Footwashing stations are near the font.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism. We have shared this discipline of Lent with new brothers and sisters in Christ who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

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

(We sit and keep silence for reflection and self examination)

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

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \pm Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

After the general confession, people may come forward and kneel or stand at the altar rail for individual absolution. Worshippers kneel or stand from the center of the rail outward in a continuous fashion and after receiving absolution, return to their seats by the side aisles.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING ~ Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

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

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:12-15 (sung responsively between choir and congregation)



¹²How shall I re- | pay the Lord for all the good things God has | done for me?

¹³I will lift the cup | of salvation and call on the name | of the Lord.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows | to the Lord in the presence of | all God's people.

¹⁵Precious in your | sight, O Lord, is the death | of your servants.

(We stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung by cantor)

I give you a | new commandment, that you love one another just as I | have loved you. (John 13:34)

GOSPEL ~ Matthew 26:17-30

At the Last Supper, Jesus renews the covenant God made with the people at the Passover, pouring out his life for salvation and new life.

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 26th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

(We sit)

HOMILY Pastor Lauren Eanes

Silence for reflection follows.

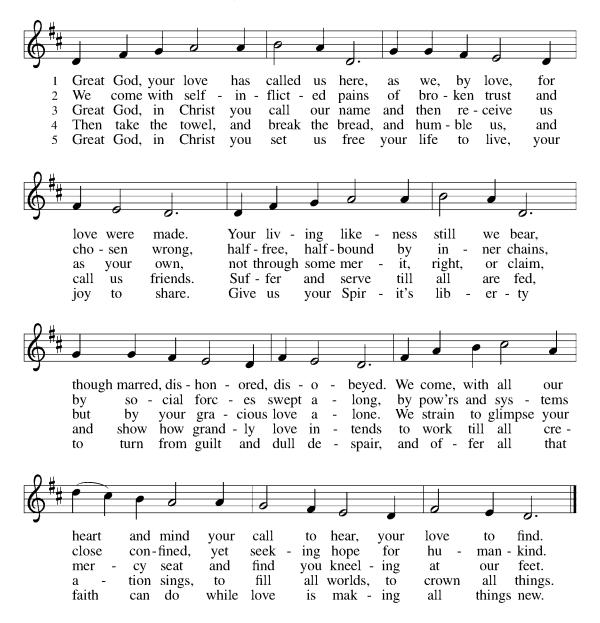
(We stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

ELW 358

~see next page~

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us



WASHING OF FEET

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

(We sit)

All who wish to participate in the foot washing are invited to come to one of the foot washing stations at the font. Hold your feet over the basin. Do not immerse your feet in the basin. A Pastor will pour water over your feet and dry them.

Via Dolorosa (E. Li & S. Tse)
Just as I Am, Without One Plea (arr. C. Berry)

Bell & Piano Piano Solo

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi sion, till your love's re veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor ship to your ser vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed: still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead. in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight, to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart; As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul, mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear, hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part. by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole. stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share. that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

(We stand)

PRAYERS

Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God's love for all who are in need.

Each petition ends. . . Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words:

We pray to you, O God, in the name of the one who endured the cross, forgives our sin, and feeds us at his table, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: "Peace be with you."

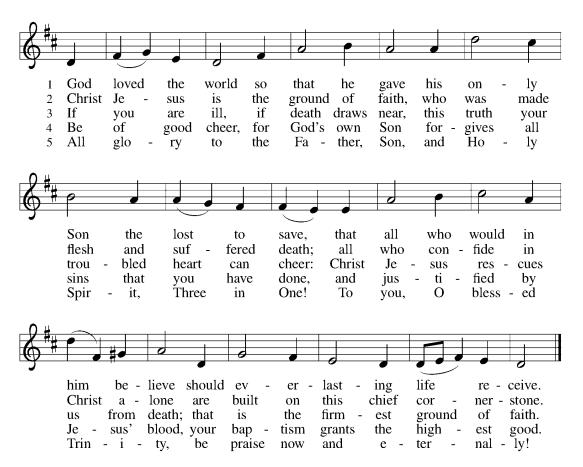
(We sit)

(We stand)

OFFERING SONG we sing verse 1

ELW 323

God Loved the World



OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, we cry out for the hope and healing you offer. Guide us continually to your service. Make us your hands to feed the hungry. Make us your feet to bring the gospel to others. Prepare us to receive the bread of life Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Beloved, let us celebrate with Jesus at the table of peace.

For he loved his own, even to the end.

Let us eat the Feast with him.

For now nothing can separate us from his love.

And let us love one another well,

For he laid down his life for us all.

Praise to you, God of glory!

Your love created the universe and sustains it.

You breathed life into our dust and placed us in paradise.

You found us when we hid ourselves, ashamed of our sin.

Your love shaped a people, and you are their God to this day,

in an alliance that lasts forever.

In the fullness of time, you called us also to be your own, through the tender ministry of Jesus.

You spoke to us with his human voice and healed us with his human hands.

He gave us his life in bread and wine, and suffered for his faithfulness on the cross of shame.

But you loved him faithfully, raising him from the dead.

You sent his Spirit into our hearts and adopted us, making us heirs of his glory; forever we belong in your household of joy.

We remember that he longed to celebrate the Passover with his friends. He arranged for a meal, his last in this life.

We remember that he gave them a new commandment:

"Love one another as I have loved you."

We remember that he gave them an example:

He knelt before them and washed their feet.

We remember that his betrayer was with him.

Jesus loved and served him too.

And we remember that on that night, with danger and death in the air, Jesus remembered with jov the deliverance of his ancestors from the oppression of Pharaoh. He told the story, shared the loaf, and drank the cup of blessing. In love for us, he took the bread, gave thanks to you, and broke it. He gave it to them, saying: "Take and eat this, all of you: this is my body, broken for you. Do this and remember me." And when the supper was over, he took a cup filled with wine, blessed it in your name, and passed it to them, saying: "This is the cup of a new covenant in my blood. Do this and remember me."

Holy Spirit, come make all things new.
Bless this bread and cup, and us who share them.
May they be for us life-giving food and drink.
Give us love for each other,
and make us your servants in the world
until your new age of justice comes,
and every creature beholds it.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

We lift up the bread of life and cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. **O Lord, we put our trust in you.**

(We sit)

Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's Table! After the invitation to communion, the ushers will direct each row to come forward. If, for any reason, you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, signal an usher or raise your hand, and an assisting minister will bring the elements to you.

As you come forward, pick up a small cup from the table at the front and then receive the bread (wafer) from the minister. Gluten-free wafers are located on the table. If you require gluten-free, please take one and present it to the pastor for blessing.

Next, proceed to one of the two communion assistants. The first chalice has wine, and the second chalice has grape juice.

As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words:

"The body of Christ, given for you \ldots The blood of Christ, shed for you."

You may say: "Amen."

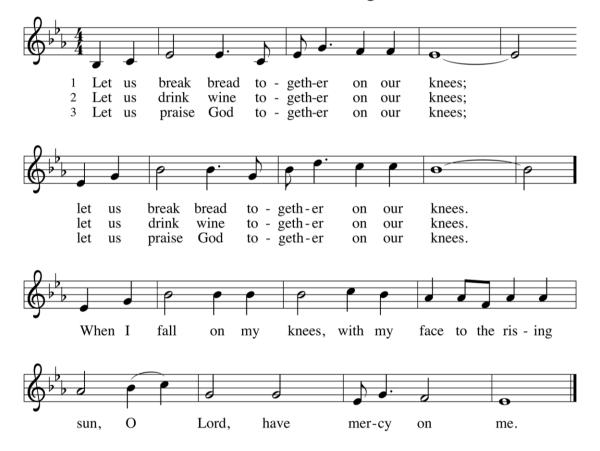
After consuming the wine/juice, please put your cup on the tray along the side wall, and return to your seat via the side aisle. **If you don't wish to remove your mask up front**, you may choose to bring the elements back to your pew to eat/drink there.

Music Meditations During Distribution

Pie Jesu (G. Fauré, 1845-1924) Vocal Solo

~see next page~

Let Us Break Bread Together



ELW 337

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed



- 1 A las! And did my Sav ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
- 2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up on the tree?
- 3 Well might the sun in dark ness hide and shut its glo ries in
- 4 Thus might I hide my blush ing face while his dear cross ap pears,
- 5 But tears of grief can not re pay the debt of love I owe;



that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as 1? de - vote A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree! when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea-tures' sin. dis - solve my heart in thank-ful-ness, and melt my tears. eyes to here, Lord, I give my-self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

(We stand)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

This rite marks the transition from the eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors. The lights are dimmed and Psalm 22 is chanted as the altar is stripped. Each item is removed slowly as we reflect on the passion of Christ. The sanctuary lamp remains lit as a symbol of the Holy Spirit's constant presence with us.

After the Stripping of the Altar, the congregation leaves in silence to return on Good Friday. The congregation continues its journey with Jesus at the Good Friday Service and at the Easter Vigil on Saturday. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are thus considered to be three acts of one worship experience.

Please leave this worship booklet at the exit so that we may reuse it as worship continues Friday and Saturday.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

FOOT WASHERS ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes, Pastor Alex Zuber

LAY ASSISTING MINISTER ~ Mary Elizabeth Skinner

LECTOR ~ Mark Warner

GREETERS/USHERS ~ Barbara Roadcap, Pam Bergey, Judy Wilfong, Sue Totty

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS ~ Robert & Linda Alley, Mark Warner, Brett Tjaden

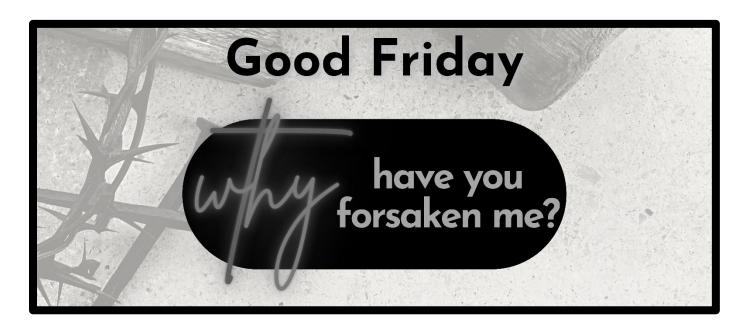
SOUND TECH ~ Tom Pippert

MUSICIANS ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister

Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist; Jenny Gibson, Cantor Choir ~ Members of Celebration Singers and Sanctuary Choir Meryl Franck, Handbell Solo; Karen Barnes, Vocal Solo; Linlin Uta, Piano Solo

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Good Friday

April 7 ~ 7:00 P.M.

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion, which we read this year from the Gospel of Matthew. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died. Today's liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening.

WE GATHER IN SILENCE

The assembly stands when the minister stands.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Grieved God, your only son Jesus fell to the earthly desires of humanity. Forgive us for our sin and restore us to your grace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GOSPEL ~ Matthew 27:1-2, 11-61

The Holy Gospel, according to ... Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We sit)

MUSICAL RESPONSE ~ Were You There (arr. D. Chadburn, 2017)

Piano Solo

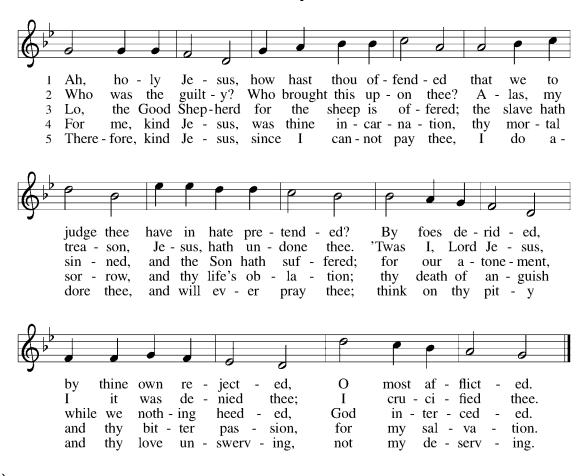
HOMILY Pastor Alex Zuber

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

(We stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 349

Ah, Holy Jesus



(We sit)

BIDDING PRAYER

The assisting minister leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). Silence for prayer follows each bid. The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence.

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for Elizabeth and Robert our bishops, for Lauren and Alex our pastors, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

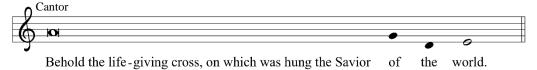
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

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

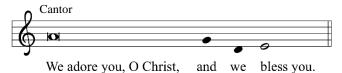
The following dialogue is sung as the procession begins.

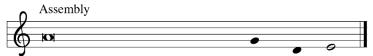




The dialogue is **sung a second time** at the midpoint of the procession, and **a third time** at the end of the procession.

When the cross is in place:





By your holy cross you have re - deemed the world.

(We sit)

CHORAL RESPONSE ~ Shalom (D. Forrest, 2020)

Choir

SILENCE

VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

We adore you, O Christ and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Worshippers may come forward to kneel and pray at the altar rail before leaving in silence or may reverence the cross before departing in silence.

Please leave this worship booklet at the exit so that we may reuse it as worship continues Saturday.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

SOUND TECH ~ Mike Koch

GREETERS/USHERS ~ Pete & Tilton Weaver, Barbara Roadcap, Susan Gallaher

MUSICIANS ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister
Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist
Choir ~ Members of Celebration Singers and Sanctuary Choir
Cynthia Page, Cantor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"Procession of the Cross," from Music Sourcebook: Lent and Three Days. Used by permission, license #6054-W.



The Vigil of Easter

April 8 ~ 4:00 P.M.

Our worship continues with the Vigil. Tonight is the heart of our three-day observance and the pinnacle of the church year. This service brings us from darkness to light, from the graveside to the resurrection proclaimed at Easter. Underscoring the new life of Christ's resurrection, tonight we celebrate new life in baptism and gather around the Lord's supper.

The service begins in Woodbine Cemetery with the lighting of a new fire. All gather in silence. A small unlighted candle is given to each worshipper.

GREETING

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

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

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

PROCESSION

The procession begins, led by the minister bearing the paschal candle.

As the procession begins, the minister sings:



The procession continues, stopping in the parking lot. The minister lifts the paschal candle and sings the response on a higher tone, after which the peoples' candles are lit from the paschal candle.



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



Light from the paschal candle is passed until all the people's candles are lighted.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

A Cantor sings the Easter proclamation; the congregation sings the bold "All" responses.

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!

Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;

and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,

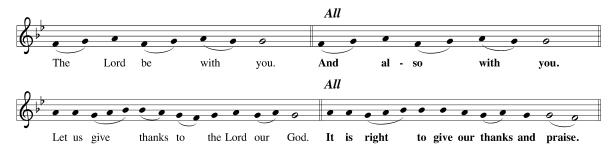
radiant in the brightness of your king!

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.

Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!

Let this place resound with joy,

echoing the mighty song of all God's people.



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin. For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain, by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.



in which, in ancient times,

you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,

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 rising brightness.

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 renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

This is the night [This is the night]

in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.

O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know

the time and hour in which Christ arose again 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 into day."

The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness;

washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen,

and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace;

and humbles earthly pride.

Therefore, in this night of grace,

receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving

for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,

reflected in the burning of this candle.

We sing the glories of this pillar of fire,

the brightness of which is not diminished

even when its light is divided and borrowed.

For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants,

have made for the substance of this candle.

This is the night [This is the night]

in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O God,

that this candle, burning to the honor of your name,

will continue to vanquish the darkness of night

and be mingled with the lights of heaven.

May Christ the Morning Star find it burning, that Morning Star who never sets, that Morning Star who, rising from the grave, faithfully sheds light on the whole human 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 paschal rejoicing; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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.**

(We sit) Handheld candles may be extinguished.

VIGIL READINGS, PSALMS, REFLECTION, AND PRAYERS

Twelve readings are appointed. Each reading offers an image with which we recount God's mighty acts and picture salvation brought to completion in Jesus Christ. Tonight we will read four: Creation, Deliverance at the Red Sea, Valley of the Dry Bones, and Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace. After each reading, there will be a song to reflect on the readings.

FIRST READING ~ Genesis 1:1 — 2:4a

CREATION

SONG ~ All God's Critters

All God's critters got a place in the choir Some sing low, some sing higher Some sing out loud on the telephone wire And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now

FIRST 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

SONG ~ Pharaoh Pharaoh

I say Pharaoh, Pharaoh Oh baby let my people go! Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah I say Pharaoh, Pharaoh Oh baby let my people go! Huh! Yeah, yeah, yeah

SECOND 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 ~ Ezekiel 37:1-14

VALLEY OF THE DRY BONES

SONG ~ Dem Bones

Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones Now hear the word of the Lord!

THIRD 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.**

FOURTH READING ~ Daniel 3:1-29

DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE

FOURTH 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.**

The people stand to sing while we process to gather around the baptismal font.

HYMN ELW 453

Baptized and Set Free



SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM PRESENTATION

The Candidate for baptism and sponsors gather with the ministers at the font.

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

A sponsor presents the candidate:

I present Lola Jane Kiser for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

The parents respond: I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her

hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Lola grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the sponsors:

Chris and Jennifer, do you promise to nurture Lola in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Lola and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

Response: We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the sponsors. The assembly joins in the responses. I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

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

I renounce them.

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

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water is poured into the font during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.

Lola Jane Kiser, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The minister continues:

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your son new birth, cleanse him from sin, and raise him to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Lola with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The sign of the cross is marked on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says: Lola, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized as a representative of the congregation says:

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome Lola as the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The assembly may greet the newly baptized with applause.

SONG we sing verses 1 & 2

We Know That Christ Is Raised



GOSPEL ~ John 20:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter ... Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

(We sit)

REFLECTION Pastor Alex Zuber

(We stand)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

O God, let the light of Christ shine on your church gathered in prayer. Lead us into the dark places of this world, there to speak words of new life and grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

By the light of Christ, illumine creation with the splendor of life. Reawaken creatures that hibernate and give new buds to dormant vegetation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

By the light of Christ, bring justice and equity to the nations of the world. We pray particularly for the people and faith communities of the Holy Land, and for all lands ravaged by strife or warfare. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

By the light of Christ, warm the hearts of those in need and comfort those who care for them. We pray especially for those who are dying. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

By the light of Christ, awaken in this community new energy for life together. Help us plant new seeds and dream new dreams in a spirit of joy. We rejoice this night with the newly baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May Christ's everlasting light shine on the faithful departed, who, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, sing the eternal song of creation's praise. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

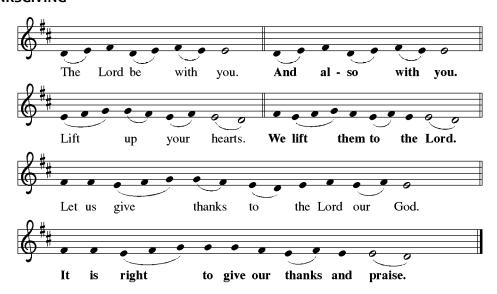
PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

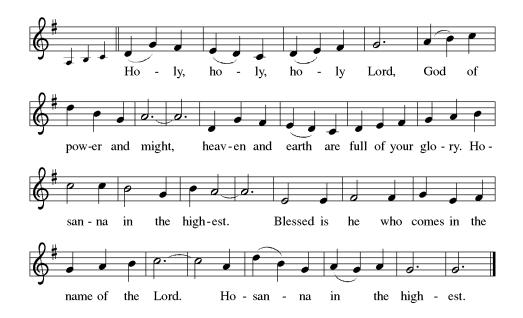
And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: "Peace be with you."

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks . . . (the minister continues with the preface, concluding:) . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty . . .

... Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. Amen!

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we pray, Amen. Amen.

... life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence the words our Savior gave us:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

This is the feast of victory for our God!

Alleluia!

(We sit)

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table! After the invitation to communion, the ushers will direct each row to come forward. If, for any reason, you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, signal an usher or raise your hand, and an assisting minister will bring the elements to you.

As you come forward, pick up a small cup from the table at the front and then receive the bread (wafer) from the minister. Gluten-free wafers are located on the table. If you require gluten-free, please take one and present it to the pastor for blessing.

Next, proceed to one of the two communion assistants. The first chalice has wine, and the second chalice has grape juice.

As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words:

"The body of Christ, given for you... The blood of Christ, shed for you."

You may say: "Amen."

After consuming the wine/juice, please put your cup on the tray along the side wall, and return to your seat via the side aisle. If you don't wish to remove your mask up front, you may choose to bring the elements back to your pew to eat/drink there.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN ~ Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

ELW 377

~see next page~

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



(We stand)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

SENDING HYMN ELW 382

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al le lu ia! Ris en our vic to rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forthnev-er death or hell shall us en thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead! through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more; now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day. We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears; death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now, See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground; All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow. Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found. hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

BLESSING

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

Amen!

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

Amen!

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

Amen!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE ~ He's Risen, He's Risen (arr. B. M. Culli, 2006)

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

MINISTERS ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes and Pastor Alex Zuber

CRUCIFER ~ Meg Wightman

TORCH BEARERS ~ Kathy Thompson, Philip Quoqui

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS ~ Kathy Thompson, Philip Quoqui, Meg Wightman

LAY ASSISTING MINISTER ~ Mary Elizabeth Skinner

SOUND TECH ~ Mark Byerly

GREETERS/USHERS ~ Susan Gallaher, Roger Kagey, Keira Miller

READERS ~ Dolan Nethercutt

FIRE CREW ~ Nathan Eanes, Brendan Miller, Tim Zuber

CANTOR ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

MUSICIANS ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister Nathan Eanes and Donovan Eanes, Guitarists

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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