

# Easter Vigil



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

# **WELCOME**

## ***This is the night!***

The church gathers on this night made holy by the light of Christ's resurrection. The people of God assemble around the new fire and the light of the paschal candle to hear the ancient Easter proclamation. The biblical stories that lead to the font are proclaimed.

Baptism and/or baptismal renewal in the death and resurrection of Christ is celebrated. Then all gather at the Lord's table where he reveals his risen presence in the breaking of bread.

Welcome as we gather to claim and proclaim the resurrection.

*Please join us for an Easterfest in Fellowship Hall after worship!*

***Kindly leave this worship book in the church.***

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# About the Easter Vigil

## **GATHERING—The Greeting**

The first part of the service continues the darkness, which spread over the world on Good Friday. At the conclusion of the greeting, the Church is thrown into total darkness as a reminder of our sin.

## **Part ONE—The Service of Light**

The first part of the service centers on the Light of the Risen Son, conquering the dark night of sin and death. We see here a picture of Christ's "*pasch*," his "*passage from death to life*." Nails and incense grains placed in the candle remind us of the sacrifice of his life and his continued prayers on our behalf. The Light of Christ is then shared with all, followed with the singing of the Exsultet—the Easter proclamation.

## **Part TWO—The Service of Vigil Readings**

Key events from creation to redemption are read, reminding us of the place we have in God's salvation story.

## **Part THREE—Affirmation of Baptism**

The third part focuses on the mystery of baptism, by which the Light of Christ was first given to us. In Holy Baptism we were buried with Christ into His death and raised again to new life. As the Holy Spirit came to Mary to conceive Jesus, so it comes through the font to bring new life to the Church. Water is sprinkled on the assembly to remember our baptism.

## **Part FOUR—The Holy Eucharist (on green insert)**

The Easter Vigil comes quite naturally to its climax with the Holy Eucharist—the joyful celebration of the children of God at the table of their Risen Lord. Thus we see the beauty of the two Sacraments—baptism and communion—given to the family of God, signs of His continuing love and blessing.

## **GATHERING — The Greeting**

*(please rise and face the entrance to the church.)*

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.

### **Part ONE—The Service of Light**

*The service begins in darkness. At the entrance to the church, a new fire is struck, and a taper is lighted from the fire, symbolic of Christ's resurrection, conquering forever the dark night of sin.*

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 Paschal Candle is now marked with a Cross, with the letters Alpha and Omega, and with the year.*

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

*The Paschal candle is lighted from the fire.*

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

*The procession now moves toward the altar with the Paschal Candle as the focus, representing Christ as the Light of the world. The procession pauses three times, proclaiming the Light and sharing it with the congregation.*

The Light of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

*(One note higher.)*

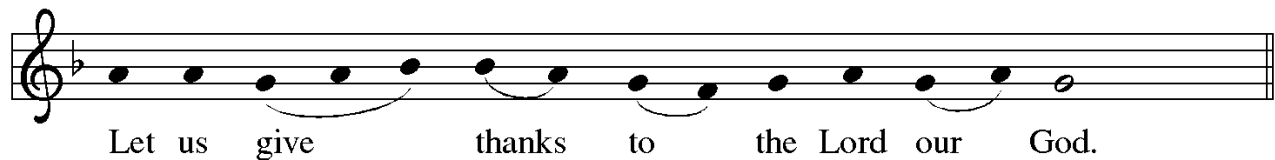
The Light of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

*(One note higher.)*

The Light of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

*The Exsultet—Easter Proclamation—is sung after the candle is placed on its stand.*

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. This is the night 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 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.

*(continued)*

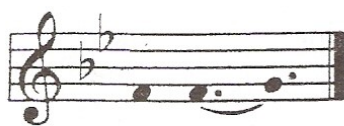
This is the night in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell! This is the night of which it is written: "The night is as clear as the day," and, "then shall my 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 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.

*During the proclamation five grains of incense and nailheads are inserted into the candle, symbolic of our Lord's wounds and of his eternal prayers offered on our behalf.*



A - men

### Prayer of the Day

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

*(Please extinguish your candle and be seated)*

## Part TWO—The Service of Vigil Readings

The First Reading: Genesis 1:2:4a *Creation*

The Second Reading: Exodus 14:10-31: 15-20-21 *Deliverance at the Red Sea*

The Third Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11 *Salvation freely offered to all*

The Fourth Reading: Daniel 3:1-29 *Deliverance from the fiery furnace*

*(please stand or remain seated as you are comfortable)*

## Part THREE—Affirmation of Baptism

Hymn

“We Know That Christ Was Raised”

ELW #449

### INTRODUCTION/PRAYER

Dear friends, on this holy night, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

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

**Amen.**

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

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

*Response: I renounce them.*

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

*Response: I renounce them.*

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

*Response: 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.**

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

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

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

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

Let us pray.

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

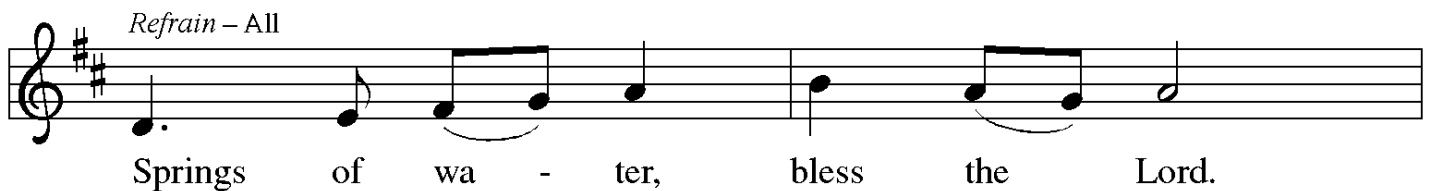
**Amen.**

*The Pastor sprinkles the assembly with water as the hymn is sung. This can be a powerful sign and symbol for the affirmation and renewal of baptism. Some people have found it helpful to trace the sign of the cross on themselves as they are sprinkled, thus reminding themselves that they have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection.*

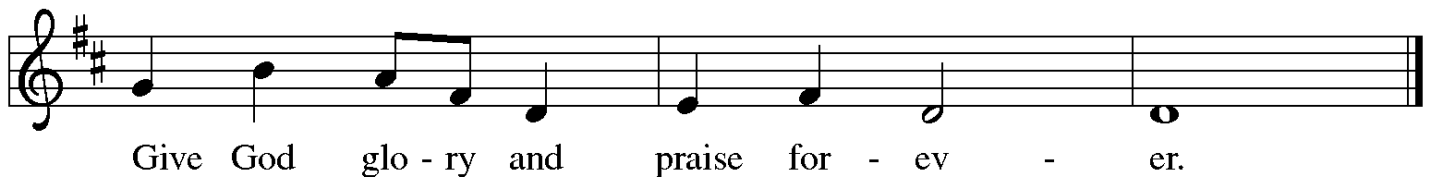
## Springs of Water, Bless the Lord

ELW #214

*Refrain – All*



Springs of wa - ter, bless the Lord.



Give God glo - ry and praise for - ev - er.

*Leader or All* *Refrain*



- 1 Buried with Christ in death, you are raised with him to life.
- 2 Bathed in the foun-tain of life, you are born to a liv - ing hope.
- 3 You are God's work of art, cre - ated in Christ Jesus.
- 4 You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.
- 5 All of you are one, u - nited in Christ Jesus.
- 6 Re-joyce, all you bap-tized, called to be chil-dren of God.

Text: *Welcome to Christ*, 1997

Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

Text and music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

The Litany (*please kneel or remain seated as you are comfortable*)

After each petition:

☪ Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a 4/4 time signature. The melody is a simple four-note sequence: G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with notes G3, A3, B3, and C4.

*Silence for meditation*

After “Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.”

+ + + +

☪ To you, O Lord.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a 4/4 time signature. The melody is a simple four-note sequence: G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with notes G3, A3, B3, and C4.

**In the mystery of our Lord’s death and resurrection,  
let us pray and meditate,  
so to prepare for the Easter Light.**