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Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

APRIL 4, 2026 | 7 PM

THE LITURGY OF EASTER EVE

Welcome to Christ Church and to this service. Although it is now much more common for people to go to church on Easter Day, this was not always so. This service on Easter Eve is in fact the most ancient Easter celebration of the Church. Long before anyone ever thought about observing Christmas, Christians were meeting before dawn to celebrate the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. At one time the whole of what we now call Holy Week was commemorated during this service. Our ancestors began the Vigil in the darkness of night to recall the darkness of death, and by the time the Vigil and Eucharist were finished, the sun had risen— a sign of new life.

Over the centuries as the liturgy developed, the other days of Holy Week took their separate forms. The Easter Vigil became focused on the resurrection. Christians continued to gather in the darkness before Easter. A fire was kindled in the darkness. The fire symbolized as it does to this day the Risen Christ, the Light of the world, overcoming the darkness of sin and death. From the New Fire the Paschal Candle is lighted and carried through the darkness of the church as the cantor sings three times "The light of Christ." From this one light of Christ we spread the light throughout the congregation. Then the story of salvation is heard from scripture, the resurrection proclaimed, and the Eucharist which has not been celebrated since Maundy Thursday is offered with great thanksgiving and joy.

By the early third century, this service was also closely associated with baptism, and it became the normal time for the admission of new Christians to the Church. This is because of the close association in Christian understanding between baptism and the death and resurrection of Jesus. When we are baptized, we become participants in Jesus' death and resurrection, and this was once powerfully symbolized when baptismal candidates, descending into the baptismal pool (as if in death), were baptized, and ascended to be clothed in white (as if to resurrection).

Notable in this service is the Paschal, or Easter Candle. "Paschal" is simply another word for Easter, and it comes from the Greek word *pascha*, which means "passover." For Easter is the Christian Passover. Indeed this service is properly called the "Paschal Vigil." The Paschal Candle is both a sign of resurrection, and a sign of the presence of the risen Christ himself. It remains in a prominent position in the church throughout the Easter season until Pentecost, when it is placed near the baptismal font. Because of its close association with Easter and with baptism, the Paschal Candle is then used throughout the year at baptisms and funerals.

Easter is the "Feast of Feasts," a declaration that nothing is more powerful than the love of God. By celebrating Easter in this very dramatic fashion, we allow the truth of this declaration to speak to us not just in an intellectual way, but in a way that also engages the senses and the emotions.

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Andrew Van Culin

THE LIGHTING AND BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

A single handbell sounds and a fire is kindled.

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is inscribed and blessed.

The Celebrant traces the cross, alpha and omega, and year into the Paschal Candle, saying:

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end. The Alpha and the Omega. His are the times and the ages. To him be glory and dominion through all ages of eternity.

People **Amen.**

The Celebrant then places five grains of incense, representing the five wounds of the crucified Lord, into the candle saying:

Through his holy and glorious wounds may Christ the Lord guard us and preserve us.

People **Amen.**

A taper is lighted from the New Fire and the Celebrant lights the Paschal Candle, saying:

May the light of Christ gloriously rising dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

People **Amen.**

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The cantor, bearing the Paschal Candle, begins the procession.

The procession pauses three times and at each pause the following is sung:



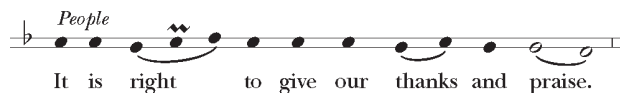
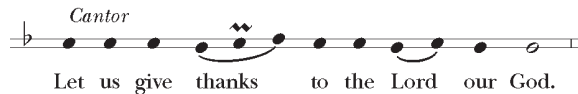
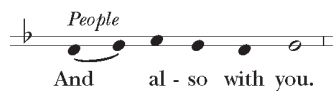
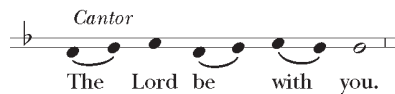
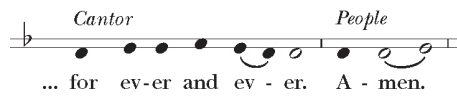
The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

After the procession, all remain standing.

THE EXSULTET

Cantor

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King. Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people. All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,



It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

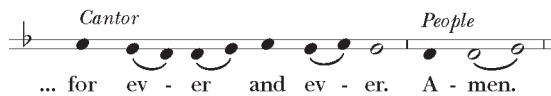
How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the work of the bees and of your servants' hands, the solemn offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness.

May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns



A light taken from the flame of the Paschal Candle is passed among the People who light their candles and pass the light to one another. Other candles in the Church are lighted, except for those on the Altar.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The people are seated.

THE STORY OF CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:2

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the 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. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So 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. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then 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. The 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. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And 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, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. 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." 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. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds

multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 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. 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. 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.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 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.” 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. 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. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 36:5-10

chant: *Plainsong, Tone I.1*

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O LORD.

How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

COLLECT

The people stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People

Amen.

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. 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? 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." 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. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. 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. 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. 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." 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. 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. 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. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. 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. 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." 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." 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. 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. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 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. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF MOSES

chant: *Plainsong, Tonus Peregrinus*

I will sing to the LORD, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and my refuge; *
the LORD has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O LORD, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O LORD, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?

You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up.

With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant them *
on the mount of your possession,

The resting-place you have made for yourself, O LORD, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.

The LORD shall reign *
for ever and for ever.

COLLECT

The people stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The people are seated.

On that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, once the LORD has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed over all the glory there will be a canopy. It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

chant: *Plainsong, Tone VIII.1*

I was glad when they said to me, *
 "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
 Now our feet are standing *
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.
 Jerusalem is built as a city *
 that is at unity with itself;
 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.
 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
 the thrones of the house of David.
 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
 "May they prosper who love you.
 Peace be within your walls *
 and quietness within your towers.
 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
 I pray for your prosperity.
 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
 I will seek to do you good."

COLLECT

The people stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you led your ancient people by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Grant that we, who serve you now on earth, may come to the joy of that heavenly Jerusalem, where all tears are wiped away and where your saints for ever sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The people are seated.

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. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 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. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, 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. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let 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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For 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, so 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

chant: *Plainsong, Tone 3*

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

COLLECT

The people stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The people are seated.

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 42:1-7

chant: *Plainsong, Tone VII.1*

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God?”

I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,

With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

COLLECT

The people stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 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."

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. 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. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, 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." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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.' Therefore prophesy, 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. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 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."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

LORD, hear my prayer,
 and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; *
 answer me in your righteousness.

Enter not into judgment with your servant, *
 for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

For my enemy has sought my life;
 he has crushed me to the ground; *
 he has made me live in dark places like those who are long dead.

My spirit faints within me; *
 my heart within me is desolate.

I remember the time past;
 I muse upon all your deeds; *
 I consider the works of your hands.

I spread out my hands to you; *
 my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.

O LORD, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; *
 do not hide your face from me
 or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
 for I put my trust in you; *
 show me the road that I must walk,
 for I lift up my soul to you.

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD, *
 for I flee to you for refuge.

Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; *
 let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Revive me, O LORD, for your Name's sake; *
 for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

Of your goodness, destroy my enemies
 and bring all my foes to naught, *
 for truly I am your servant.

COLLECT

The people stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The people are seated.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The people remain standing.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new
birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins,
keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved
in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their
bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism
of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us,
through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in
his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy
Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship
those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those
who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen
life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor
and glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE ASPERSING OF THE CONGREGATION

Baptismal water is sprinkled on the congregation as a reminder of their own Baptism.

ANTHEM

VIDI AQUAM

Plainsong

I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple.
It brought God's life, and his salvation, and the people sang in joyful praise.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

After the Acclamation, a fanfare sounds.

HYMN

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

Truro

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

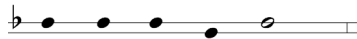
1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter
magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite
Jesu Christe;
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus.
Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.*

Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to men
of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you.
We give thanks to you because of
your great glory.
Lord God, King of Heaven,
God the Father almighty,
the only begotten Son,
Lord Jesus Christ.
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father.
You who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
You who takes away the sins of the world,
receive our supplication.
You who sits at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are holy.
You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.



People **And al - so with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The people are seated for the reading.

THE READING

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The people stand for the hymn.

HYMN

THROUGH THE RED SEA BROUGHT AT LAST

Straf mich nicht



1 Through the Red Sea brought at last, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Like the cloud that o - ver - head, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 In that cloud and in that sea, Al - le - lu - ia!



E - gypt's chains be - hind we cast, Al - le - lu - ia! Deep and wide
through the bil - lows Is - rael led, Al - le - lu - ia! by his tomb
bur - ied and bap - tized were we, Al - le - lu - ia! Earth - ly night



flows the tide sev - ering us from bond - age past, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ makes room, souls re - stor - ing from the dead, Al - le - lu - ia!
brought us light which is ours e - ter - nal - ly, Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL FANFARE

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

GOSPEL FANFARE

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

Dr. Garwood P. Anderson

A brief period of silence is observed for reflection on the sermon after which the people stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

THE OFFERTORY

The people remain seated while the offering is collected.

As you remember again the Easter promise, and even more the gift and joy of life in Christ, you are invited to make an impact with your Easter Offering. This year, the entirety of our Easter Offering at Christ Church, including every dollar received today, will be dedicated to supporting the good work of our ministry partner, Crossroads of Michigan.

Christ, victorious; Christ, now reigning;
 Christ, your Lord and King, commands!
 Shouts of triumph, praise unceasing,
 “Holy, holy to the Lamb.”
 Alleluia, alleluia, Christ, by heav’n and earth adored.
 Alleluia, alleluia, Righteous King and mighty Lord.
 Christ, the Image; Christ, the Dawning;
 Christ, the first of God’s commands.
 All things through him, all things for him,
 Stars and all of heav’n’s expanse.
 Alleluia, alleluia, Light and Source and Holy One.
 Alleluia, alleluia, Christ, who was and is to come.
 Christ, the Victim; Christ, the Healing;
 Love anoints his hands and feet.
 Christ, the dying; Christ, the rising,
 God’s own sacrifice complete.
 Alleluia, alleluia, Hail the Chosen One of God!
 Alleluia, alleluia, Great Redeemer, saving Lord.
 Come, Almighty, claim your kingdom.
 Call a nation for your own.
 Come with beauty, pow’r, and blessing.
 Gather all your people home.
 Alleluia, alleluia, Christ, the Banquet; Christ, the Song.
 Alleluia, alleluia, Christ, the glory; Christ alone.

The people stand for the presentation hymn and remain standing for the Great Thanksgiving.

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pier - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

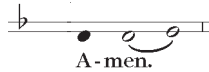
Celebrant

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

People **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

People **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

People **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Gospeller dismisses the People.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with
 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and
 *3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -
 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened

joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;
 ra - dian brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;
 um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,

let the whole wide earth re - jice: death is con - quered,
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion
 yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er

we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
 that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.
 pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

The people are invited to a champagne reception in the undercroft.

EASTER



LESSONS



&



CAROLS

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 | 4 PM



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