



The Great Vigil of Easter

MARCH 30, 2024

7:30 p.m.

*Service begins in Memorial Columbarium,
and then processes to the Sanctuary.*

SERVICE OF LIGHT: GATHERING

* GATHERING AROUND THE FIRE

* GREETING

Leader: Grace and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **And also with you.**

* GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

Beloved people of God, 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 our Lord Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water, bread, and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, we share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and we await Christ's coming again in glory.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,

**People: and the Word was with God,
And the Word was God.**

Leader: The life of Christ is the light of all people.

**People: The light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness will not overcome it.**

* OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ
you have given the light of life to all the world.
Bless the new fire,
and kindle in us the desire to shine
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.**

* LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL FLAME

Leader: The Light of Christ rises in glory,

People: casting out the shadow of sin and death.

* THE PROCESSION OF THE LIGHT

Cantor: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

* EASTER PROCLAMATION

All: [Refrain]:



Re · joice, heav · en · ly powers! Sing, choirs of an · gels! Je · sus Christ our King is ris · en!

Leader: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels! Exult, all
creation around God's throne. Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

All: [Refrain]

Leader: Rejoice, O earth in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

All: *[Refrain]*

Leader: Rejoice, O Mother 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!

All: *[Refrain]*

Leader All Leader All

The Lord be with you. And al-so-with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Leader All

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

Leader: It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, the unseen God, the all-powerful Creator, and your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the debt of Adam's sin.

All: *[Refrain]*

Leader: This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers. This is the night when you first saved our forebears: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery, and led them dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin! This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness. This is the night when Jesus broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

All: *[Refrain]*

SERVICE OF READINGS: THE WORD

READING: “Creation”.....*selections from Genesis 1-2:4*

*We invite you to contemplate the painting,
“The Creation of the Animals” (c. 1550) by Il Tintoritto,
located on page 5.*

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: No. 37 – Let All Things Now LivingASH GROVE

READING: “Flood”*paraphrased from Genesis 7-9*

MUSIC: Toccata and Fugue in d minor.....Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

READING: “Israel’s Deliverance”*Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21*

MUSIC: Deep River.....Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

READING: “A New Heart, A New Spirit”*Ezekiel 36:24-28*

MUSIC: Asperges me, Domine Thomás Luis Victoria (1548-1613)

*We invite you to contemplate the painting,
“The Celebrant” (1987) by Tim Lowly,
located on page 6.*

READING: “Baptized with Christ”*Romans 6:3-11*

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: No. 482 – Baptized in WaterBUNESSAN

GOSPEL READING: “The Resurrection”.....*Mark 16:1-8*

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: No. 248 – Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! HYMN TO JOY





SERVICE AT THE FONT

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

Leader: Just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.

**People: In the one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.
We are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Beloved people of God,
through baptism we are washed clean from sin
and made one as members of Christ's body.
By the mystery of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection,
the power of sin was broken and God's realm entered our world.
In baptism we become citizens of God's new creation,
forever set free from the bondage of sin and death.
Tonight we celebrate our freedom and redemption
through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism.
I ask all of you, therefore, to reject sin,
to profess your faith in Christ Jesus,
and to confess the faith of the church,
the faith in which we are baptized.

The congregation is invited to rise in body or spirit.

- * Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world?

People: I renounce them.

Leader: Who is your Lord and Savior?

People: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying Christ's word and showing Christ's love?

People: I will, with God's help.

Leader: With the whole church, let us confess our faith:
Do you believe in God?

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

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: 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.**

Leader: Do you believe in 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. Amen.**

* THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

In countless ways, from generation to generation,
you reveal your great love for the world
and bless us with signs of your grace.

We praise you that through the waters of the sea,
you led your people Israel out of bondage,
into freedom in the land of your promise.

We praise you for sending Jesus Christ your Son,
and for the baptism of his death and resurrection
through which you set us free from sin and death.

We praise you for the gift of your Holy Spirit,
poured out upon all nations and people
so that all who call on your name might be saved.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit
upon us and upon this water,
that this font may be your womb of new birth.
May all who now pass through these waters
be delivered from death to life,
from bondage to freedom,
from sin to righteousness.
Bind them to the household of faith
and guard them from all evil.
Strengthen them to serve you with joy
until the day you make all things new.
Through the Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we bless you, God of glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

* *REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: Gracious God, by water and the Spirit
you claimed us as your own,
cleansing us from sin and giving us new life.
You made us members of your body, the church,
calling us to be your servants in the world.
Renew in us the covenant you made in our baptism.
Continue the good work you have begun in us.
Send us forth in the power of your Holy Spirit
to love and serve you with joy,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REMEMBERING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS / INVITATION TO THE FONT

You are welcome, as you are able, to come forward to the font. Using the baptismal waters, the ministers will sign you with the cross, saying, "Remember your baptism, and be thankful." If you are unable to come forward, please raise a hand and a minister will come to you.

ANTHEM: Take Me to the Water..... arranged by Alice Parker (1925-2023)

Take me to the water to be baptized.
Wade in the water and be baptized.
Rest beside the water, restore my soul.
Drink the living water and never thirst.
Take me to the water to be baptized.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

SERVICE AT THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: According to the prophet Isaiah, the day is coming
when the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food and well-aged wines.

On that day, the Lord will destroy the shroud of death
that is cast over the whole earth;

God will take away the disgrace of the people
and wipe away the tears from all faces.

God will swallow up death forever.

**People: This is the day of resurrection;
this is the Lord for whom we have waited.
Let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord, our God.

By your wisdom, you created the world and everything in it;
by your power, you have delivered us from evil in every age;
by your mercy, you have promised never to forsake us.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song
of the universal Church and the heavenly choir:

SANCTUS: Holy, Holy, Holy LAND OF REST

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, —
2. Bless - ed is he who comes

God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Before the rising of the sun on the first day of the week,
Jesus rose from the dead! With the first believers,
we bear witness to this good news of great joy.

Remembering your goodness and grace,
we offer ourselves to you with gratitude
as we share this joyful feast.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION: Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen LAND OF REST

Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

As we have been buried with Christ by baptism into death,
raise us up, by the power of your Spirit, to walk in new life.
Let us be dead to sin and alive to you in Christ Jesus.

As grains of wheat are gathered from the land
to become the one bread we share,
gather up your church from the ends of the earth
into the glory of your new creation.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we bless you, God of glory,
now and forever.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with slurs over the first two phrases and the final phrase. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - men.' are written below the staff.

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Jesus said: Come to me and never be hungry;
believe in me and never thirst.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION (taken by intinction)

You are welcome, as you are able, to come forward to the Communion Table.

*If you are unable to come forward, please raise a hand
and a minister will come to you.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM: Soul, Adorn Thyself with GladnessJohann Crueger

Soul, adorn thyself with gladness,
Leave behind all gloom and sadness;
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy thy praises render.
Unto Him whose grace unbounded,
Hath this wondrous Supper founded.
High o'er all the heav'ns He reigneth,
Yet to dwell with thee He deigneth.

Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor,
Jesus, Thou my Friend most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring,
At Thy feet I cry, my Maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Thy glory, given.

Jesus, Bread of life, I pray Thee,
Let me gladly here obey Thee.
By Thy love I am invited,
By Thy love with love requited;
From this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gifts Thou here dost give me
As Thy guest in heav'n receive me.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God, you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
We have remembered your mighty acts in holy history.
We have seen your power
in sending light to conquer darkness,
water to give us life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish us in love.
Send us out now, with the good news of salvation
and a message of joy to all the world,
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* EASTER BENEDICTION

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

People: Alleluia!

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
in the power of his resurrection.

People: Amen.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Alleluia!

People: Amen.

VOLUNTARY: Choral Improvisation on 'Victimae Paschali'

Charles Tournemire (1870-1939)



WORSHIP LEADERS

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor
Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission
Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation
Phaedra Smith, Associate Director of Children & Youth Ministry
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir
Anne Albert, Director of Worship
Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice!
Laura Alexander, Mezzo-soprano
Amanda Edwards, Soprano

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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“The Creation of the Animals” by Il Tintoretto, ca. 1550, oil on canvas, 59" × 101".
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See more at GALLERIEACCADEMIA.IT.

“The Celebrant” by Tim Lowly © 1987, tempera on panel, 15" x 11". Private collection, New York.
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Our worship continues tomorrow:

- *7 am sunrise service in Memorial Columbarium*
 - *Identical 9 & 11 am services*
with Chancel Choir and Brass Quintet
- *Rejoice! Easter Celebration, 10-10:40 am in the Life Center.*
Join us for an Easter sing-along and donut & coffee fellowship.
 - *10 am Resurrection Egg Hunt,*
Elm Street Prayground (preschool-5th grade)



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