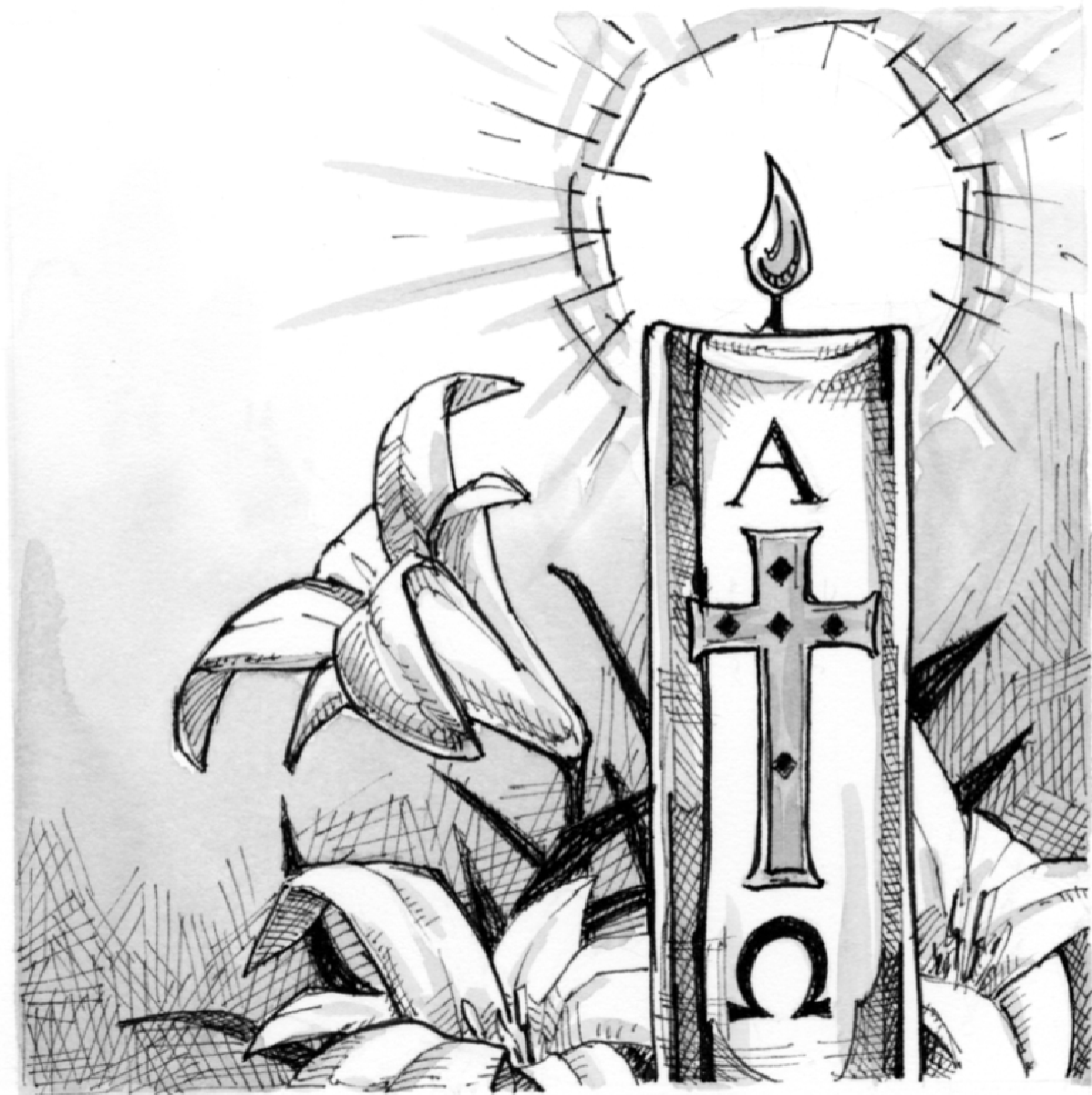


Easter Vigil 2024



Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
10302 South 27th Street, Oak Creek, WI
March 31, 2024+ 6:30 AM



Easter Vigil

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION & OUR BAPTISM

The congregation gathers in the dimly lit church, and all observe reverent silence.

All are given a candle to be lit later from the paschal candle.

Please note the service instructions in italics throughout this worship folder.

At 6:30 AM the ministers gather at the back of the church under the balcony.

The congregation rises, turns, and faces the ministers in the back of the church.

In the semidarkness a fire is kindled.

Service of Light

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Greeting and Prayer

On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the commemoration of our Lord's resurrection in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people with the fire of your love. Bless us as we celebrate this Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with you, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the feast of light which has no end, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

An assisting minister, holding the paschal candle, steps forward.

While tracing the Greek letters A and Ω (Alpha and Omega):

Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega.

While tracing the year on the candle:

His are time and eternity; his are the glory and dominion now and forever.

After placing the five wax nails representing the wounds of Christ into the candle:

By his wounds we are healed now and forever.

The paschal candle is lit.

May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

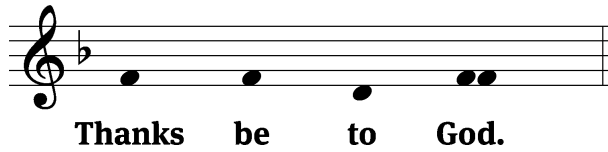
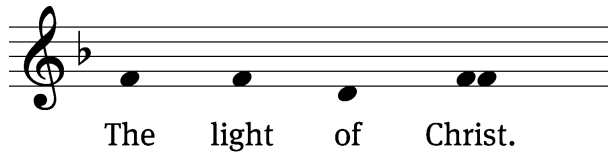
Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful Father, once we were darkness, but now we are light in Jesus Christ our Lord. Abundantly bless all who joyfully celebrate this night in faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill us with your heavenly blessing in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

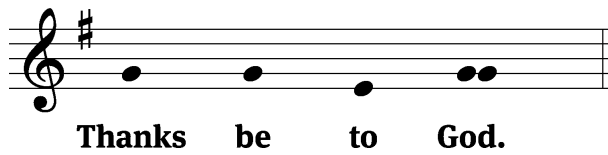
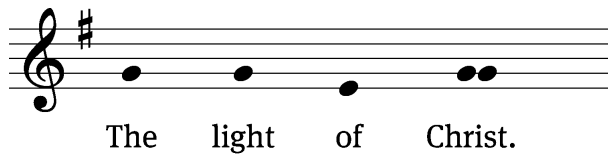
Amen.

- **All light their candles from the paschal candle.**

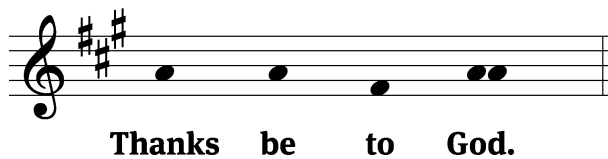
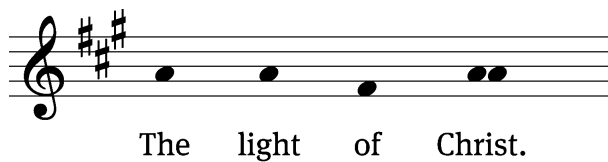
At the entrance of the nave, the assisting minister lifts the paschal candle high.



The ministers process halfway to the chancel. The assisting minister pauses and lifts the paschal candle high.



The ministers process to the chancel and stand before the altar. The assisting minister pauses and lifts the paschal candle high.



Easter Proclamation

The assisting minister places the paschal candle in its stand in the center of the chancel. The cantor sings:

Exsultet

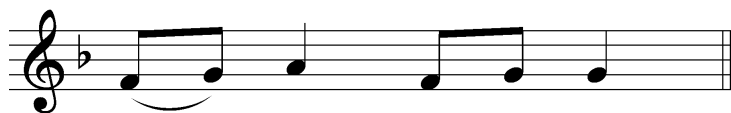
Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King.

Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished.

Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.



The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places, with all our hearts and minds and voices, praise you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, and your one and only Son, Jesus Christ. For he is the true Paschal Lamb, who offered himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of his precious blood.

This is the night when you brought our ancestors, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the tomb is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and boundless is your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave you gave your Son.

How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to the downcast. How blessed is this night when mankind is reconciled to God in Christ.

Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true Light and Morning Star, shine in our hearts, he who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

- All extinguish their candles. A few lights in the nave may be turned on.

370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

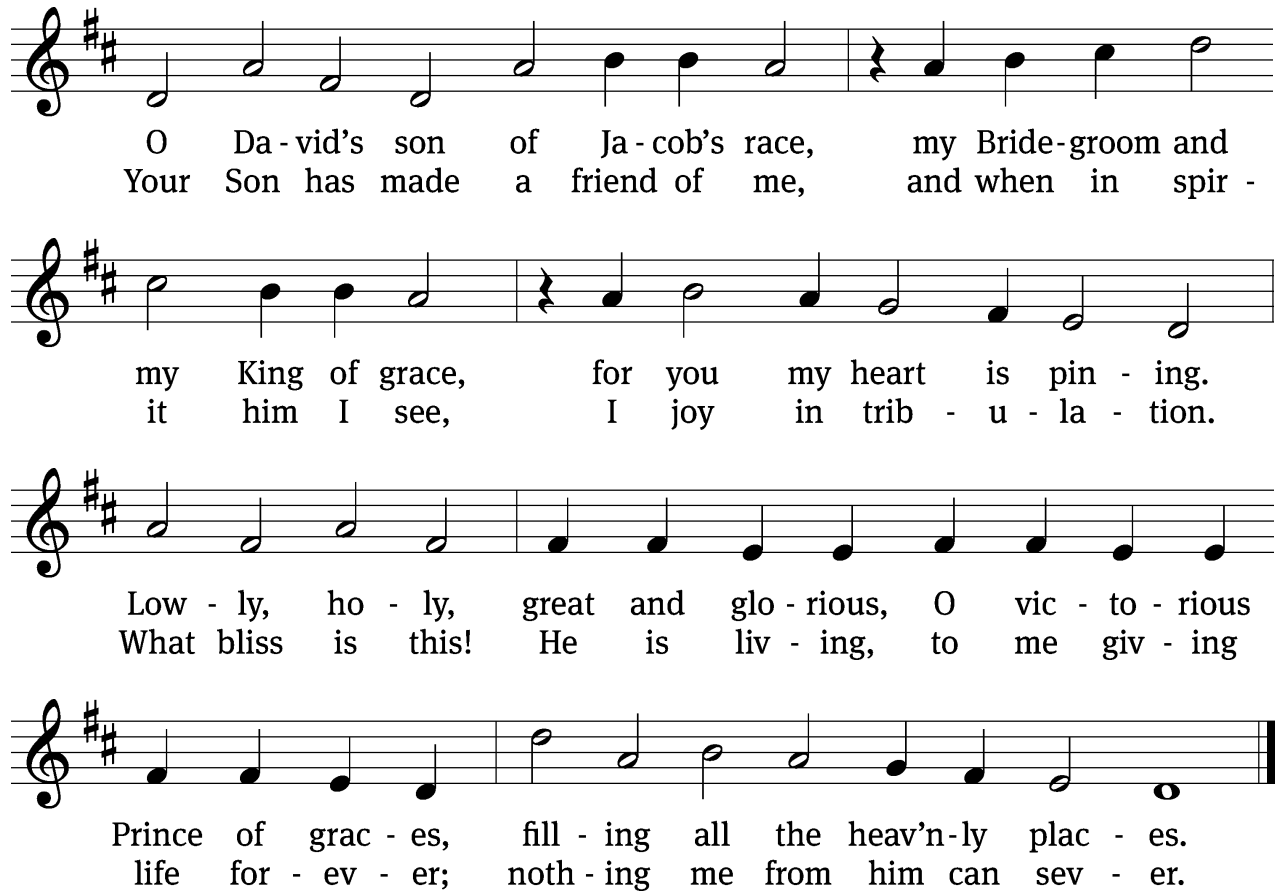
CW 370 sts. 1, 3



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride-groom and
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -

my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.

Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing

Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n-ly plac - es.
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt. Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608. Text and tune: Public domain.

Service of Readings

At the Vigil Service it is customary to read selections of the Old Testament. These readings prepare us for Christ by showing God's grace in creating us and his power over sin, evil, and death. These readings take the place of the sermon.

On this most holy night, our Savior Christ the Lord broke the power of death and by his resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for he truly keeps his word. The sun of righteousness has dawned on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Our God created the universe, our world, and humanity, the crown of his creation. What God created he loves. What God loves he will never forsake.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he 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 vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. 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 vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves

about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

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

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

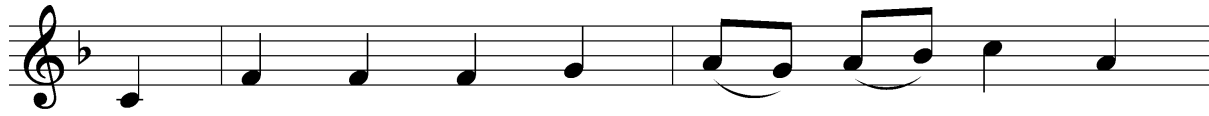
Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

504 We Sing the Almighty Power of God

CW 504



1 We sing th'al - might - y pow'r of God that
 2 We sing the good - ness of the Lord that
 3 There's not a plant or flow'r be - low but



made the moun - tains rise, that spread the flow - ing
 filled the earth with food; he formed the crea - tures
 makes your glo - ries known, and clouds a - rise and



seas a - broad and built the loft - y skies.
 with his Word and then pro - nounced them good.
 tem - pests blow by or - der from your throne;



We sing the wis - dom that or - dained the
 Lord, how your won - ders are dis - played wher -
 while all that bor - rows life from you is



sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at
 e'er we turn our eyes, if we sur - vey the
 ev - er in your care, and ev - 'ry - where that



his com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 ground we tread or gaze up - on the skies.
 we can be, you, God, are pres - ent there.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: English; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Almighty God, you wonderfully created human nature and more wonderfully redeemed it. By your mercy renew us in the image of him who came to share our humanity, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Flood

Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

God created the world by his Word. God wiped out the sinful world with water. In Holy Baptism, by water and the Word God recreates us in his image.

The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.”

And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water.

After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

46A The LORD Almighty Is with Us

Psalm 46A

Refrain

The LORD Al - might - y is
with us; the God of Ja - cob is our for - tress.

Tone

God is our ref- / uge and strength,

an ever-present help in / trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way

and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea,

though its waters / roar and foam

and the mountains quake with their / surging. Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- / y of God,

the holy place where the Most / High dwells.

God is within her, she / will not fall;

God will help her at / break of day.

“Be still, and know that / I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth.”

Refrain

Tune: Dale A. Witte

Setting: Dale A. Witte

Music: © 2021 Dale A. Witte, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: Northwestern Publishing House no. 727825

O Lord, whose wrath burned against the evil of humanity, you brought the flood on a wicked and perverse generation and yet saved faithful Noah and his family. Gather your people into your Church, and so complete your work of mercy, that the ends of the earth may know your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Psalm 136:4-10

The traditional first lesson is Exodus 14:10-15:1, the account of Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea. We will read responsively from Psalm 146 as it summarizes God's great deliverance of his people through the waters that destroyed Pharaoh's armies, the enemy of God's people.



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

To him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt
His love endures forever.

And brought Israel out from among them
His love endures forever.

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm;
His love endures forever.

To him who divided the Red Sea asunder
His love endures forever.

And brought Israel through the midst of it,
His love endures forever.

But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;
His love endures forever.

To him who led his people through the desert,
His love endures forever.

Who struck down great kings,
His love endures forever.



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

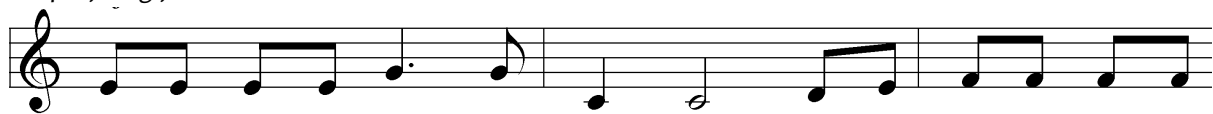
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

O God, you once delivered your people Israel from slavery under Pharaoh and led them safely through the Red Sea. By this you gave us a picture of Baptism. Lead us always to rejoice in your baptismal promise, that we may live in its grace and declare to all people your desire to save them and bring them to a knowledge of your truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Salvation Offered Freely to All

Isaiah 55:1-11

God's Word does what God wants his Word to do. By his Word God saves us and blesses us with every good and perfect gift.



Sure - ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and



not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong - hold and my



sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
And you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

**Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?**

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

**See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of the peoples.**

Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations that do not know you will hasten to you,
**because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.”**

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Almighty God, you created and sustain all things by the power of your Word. You send forth your Spirit to renew your creation. Give your saving water of life to all who thirst, that they may bear much fruit in your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Service of Holy Baptism

The Paschal Candle is moved to the baptismal font.

Let us pray.

O Almighty and everlasting God, look mercifully on the faith of your regenerate people, who like the deer pant after the fountain of your waters: and mercifully grant that the thirst of their faith may, by the sacrament of Baptism, sanctify their souls and bodies. Send forth your Spirit of adoption to regenerate the new people to whom the font of Baptism gives birth; that what is to be done by our humble ministry may be accomplished by the effect of your power; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God: world without end.

Amen.

The minister makes the sign of the cross over the baptismal font.

May the Holy Spirit grant that all who are baptized at this font emerge as sons of heaven, reborn as new creatures: and may all, however distinguished either by gender or age, be born to the same infancy of spirit by grace. Therefore, may all unclean spirits, by your command, O Lord, depart far, may the whole malice of Satan's deceit be entirely banished: may no power of the enemy prevail here: let him not fly about to lay his snares; may he not creep in by stealth: may he not corrupt with his poison.

Here the minister places the Paschal Candle, which represents the risen Christ, into the Baptismal Font. This symbolizes the power of Christ's resurrection contained in the sacrament of Baptism. The minister says:

Here may the stains of all sins be washed out; here may human nature, created in your image, and reformed to the honor of its Author, be cleansed from all the filth of the old man: that all who receive the Sacrament of regeneration, may be born again new children of true innocence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son: who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire.

Amen.

On this holiest of days the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls his death and burial, rejoicing in the gospel of his glorious resurrection from the dead. Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection.

The apostle Paul says in Romans, chapter 6: "Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

"If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

"Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

“The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Hymn

Tune: Picardy (Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

From the Virgin Soil of Eden

Text: Chad L. Bird

This hymn artfully combines images from familiar Old Testament events with the blessing and power of Baptism.

**From the virgin soil of Eden,
In his image, God made man;
From the virgin womb of Mary,
In our flesh, was God made man;
From the virgin font of water,
I'm remade in that God-Man.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
In your Name I am baptized;
Like my promised brother, Isaac,
My heart has been circumcised:
Sinful flesh cut off in water,
Abram's sonship realized.**

**As the waters flooded o'er me,
Angels flew me in the ark,
Through the fleshly door of Jesus,
Which the soldier's spear did mark.
I shall voyage in his Body,
Till in heav'n I disembark.**

**Hellish Pharaoh sore assailed me,
Whipped my soul unceasingly
Egypt held me fast in bondage,
Steeped in vile depravity.
Baptized by a Greater Moses,
I passed through his crimson sea.**

**Born alive but dead in spirit,
Leprous was my sinful soul.
Then with Naaman I found healing,
Where the Jordan's waters roll.
By his mighty Word, Elisha,
Healed my body, made me whole.**

**Cast forth from the fish's belly,
Jonah left the darkness dread,
Pointing to the resurrection,
Of the One from whom he'd fled.
From the belly of the fountain,
Cast me forth to life from death.**

Stand

In Holy Baptism God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Will you continue steadfast in this baptismal faith and, as a member of the Church, be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.

Amen.

Service of Holy Communion

After a brief time of silence, the church bells are rung, and the lights of the church are fully lit. The minister and congregation proclaim:

Easter Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176





heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



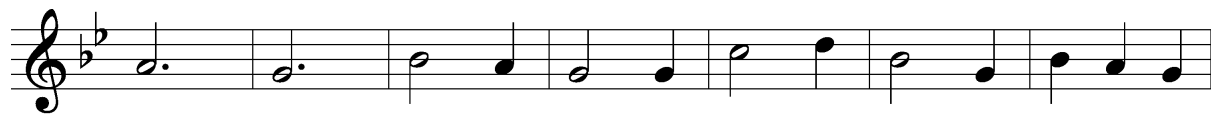
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: Northwestern Publishing House no. 727825

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before you in righteousness and purity forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

439 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

CW 439



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands for our of - fens -
 2 No son of man could con - quer death, such ru - in sin
 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, his peo - ple to
 4 It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death



es giv - en; but now at God's right hand he stands
 had wrought us. No in - no - cence was found on earth,
 de - liv - er; de - stroy - ing sin, he took the crown
 con - tend - ed. The vic - to - ry re - mained with life,



and brings us life from heav - en. There - fore let us
 and there - fore death had brought us in - to bond - age
 from death's pale brow for - ev - er. Stripped of pow'r, no
 the reign of death was end - ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture



joy - ful be and sing to God right thank - ful - ly
 from of old and ev - er grew more strong and bold
 more it reigns; an emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
 plain - ly saith that death is swal - lowed up by death;



loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 and held us as its cap - tive. Al - le - lu - ia!
 its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dis - graced, it lies de - feat - ed. Al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
whom God so freely gave us;
he died on the accursèd tree—
so strong his love—to save us.
See, his blood now marks our door;
faith points to it; death passes o'er,
and Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!
- 6 So let us keep the festival
to which the Lord invites us;
Christ is himself the joy of all,
the sun that warms and lights us.
Now his grace to us imparts
eternal sunshine to our hearts;
the night of sin is ended. Alleluia!
- 7 Then let us feast this Easter Day
on Christ, the bread of heaven;
the Word of grace has purged away
the old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
he is our meat and drink indeed;
faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tune: Latin, c. 1100; adapt. Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

On this most holy night, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ joyfully celebrates his resurrection from the dead. Our Lord has won our forgiveness, life, and salvation by his death and resurrection. He now comes to us in the Sacrament of the Altar to personally bless us with these gifts. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

The musical score is written on seven staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: Northwestern Publishing House no. 727825

Lord's Prayer

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

+ Words of Institution +

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

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

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

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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Be seated

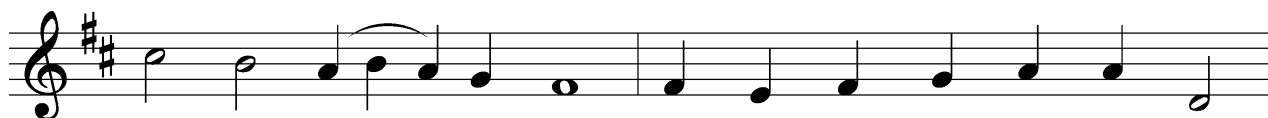
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675 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

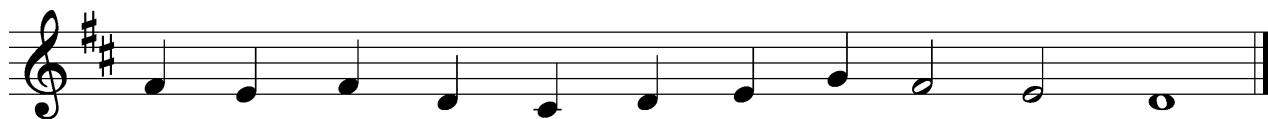
CW 675



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we him whose love di - vine gives his
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
thro' the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 **Mighty Victim from the sky,
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight,
you have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!**

6 **Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise,
and your saints in you shall rise.
Alleluia!**

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 newborn souls in you to be.

Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days,
 Three in One, your name we praise.

Alleluia!

Text: tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt.; Latin, c. 4th-10th cent., alt. 17th cent. Tune: Kirchengeseng, Ivancice, 1566. Text and tune: Public domain

673 O Lord, We Praise You

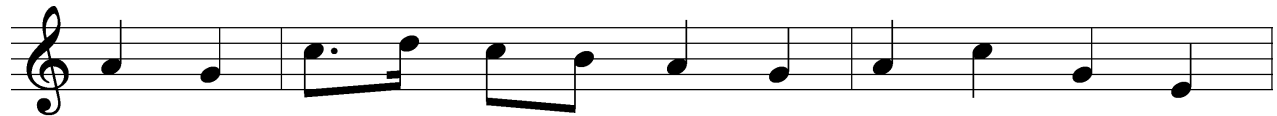
CW 673



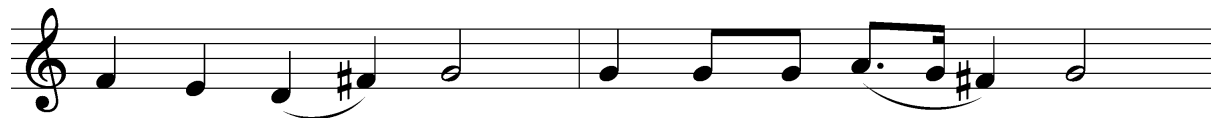
1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a - dore you,
 2 Your ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
 3 May God be - stow on us his grace and fa - vor



in thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your
 life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 that we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior and live to -



bod - y and your blood you nour - ish our weak souls that
 love than this to you could bind us; may this feast of
 geth - er here in love and un - ion, nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 that re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest com - mun - ion. O Lord, have mer - cy!

May your bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, that our
 Lord, your love and kind - ness did move you; let your
 Let not your good Spir - it for - sake us; grant that

sins and sor - rows did car - ry, and your blood for us plead
 sup - per move us to love you. All our debt you have paid;
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed he make us. Give your Church, Lord, to see

in all tri - al, fear, and need. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 peace with God once more is made. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 days of peace and u - ni - ty. O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter, alt. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Northwestern Publishing House no. 727825. Tune: Public domain

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We thank you, Lord, that you have nourished us with your Easter sacraments.
 Fill us with your Spirit, the Spirit of your love, that those whom you have
 satisfied with one heavenly bread may be united in one holy will, through Jesus
 Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
 now and forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give
 us also the joys of life in your service and bring us at last to the full joy of life

eternal, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord - the Father, the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit - bless us and keep us.

Amen.

469 Welcome, Happy Morning

CW 469



1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say;
2 Mak - er and Re - deem - er, life and health of all,
3 Source of all things liv - ing, you came down to die,
4 Free the souls long pris - oned, bound with Sa - tan's chain;



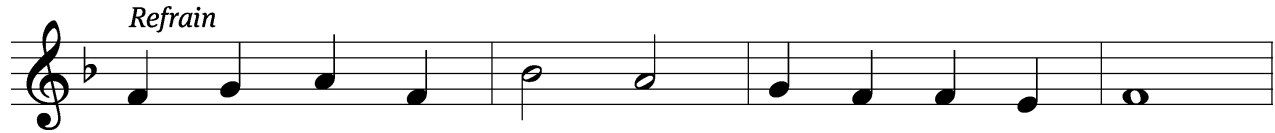
"Hell to - day is van - quished; heav'n is won to - day!"
God from heav'n be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,
plumbed the depths of hell to raise us up on high.
all that now is fall - en raise to life a - gain.



Lo, the dead is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!
of the Fa - ther's God - head you, the on - ly Son,
Come, then, true and faith - ful, come, ful - fill your word;
Show your face in bright - ness; shine in ev - 'ry land



Him, their true Cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore.
man - kind to de - liv - er man - hood did put on.
this is your third morn - ing— rise, O bur - ied Lord.
as in E - den's gar - den when the world be - gan.



“Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!” age to age shall say;



“Hell to - day is van - quished; heav’n is won to - day!”

Text: tr. John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.; Venantius Fortunatus, c. 530–609, abr.

Tune: Enchiridion Geistliche Lede und Psalmen, Lübeck, 1545

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Vigil of Easter from Christian Worship

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A Welcome to Our Guests

If you’re visiting today, we’re especially glad to have you with us.

Here are some further ways to connect with our congregation:

- Sign the guest register in the narthex so that we know you came to visit.
- Scan the code to get to our website and learn more about us.
- Speak with Pastor Reckzin, Deacon Lambrecht, or any of our members. We’re happy to answer questions or talk with you more!



Daily Lectionary Readings for Easter Week (Mar 31 – Apr 6)

Stay in the Word this week with these daily readings. Use the questions as prompts to meditate more deeply on these passages from the Word of God. May they be a blessing to your faith!

Mar 31 (Easter Sunday)

Exodus 14:10-31

In what ways does the crossing of the Red Sea illustrate our baptism?

Hebrews 7:23-8:13

What does the author do to stress the perfection of the new covenant and the flaws of the old one?

Mon Apr 1

Exodus 15:1-18

How can the song of Moses and the Israelites also be your song of praise?

Hebrews 9:1-28

How can this chapter give us great confidence in the benefits of the sacrament of Holy Communion?

Tue Apr 2

Exodus 15:19-16:12

After rejoicing, the people begin to grumble. What does God's response tell us about the nature of our complaining?

Hebrews 10:1-18

What does the author mean when he says that Christ has "by a single offering...perfected for all time those who are being sanctified?" (v 14)

Wed Apr 3

Exodus 16:13-35

How faithful was God in feeding the Israelites in such an inhabitable place? Consider the ways in which God continues to provide for you.

Hebrews 10:19-39

Since we know what Christ's perfect sacrifice accomplished, how are we to live?

Thur Apr 4

Exodus 17:1-16

Upon whom does the success of Israel ultimately depend?

Hebrews 11:1-29

What did the Old Testament figures listed here have faith in, even though the Messiah had not yet arrived?

Fri Apr 5

Exodus 18:5-27

Moses serves as a mediator between God and his people. How does this role foreshadow Jesus?

Hebrews 12:1-24

Why do we accept the discipline that God gives us? What is the result of submitting to his will?

Sat Apr 6

Exodus 19:1-25

What prevents us from approaching God? How has that been made possible?

Hebrews 13:1-21

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (v 8) How does this fact strengthen us against false teaching?

Parish News

Sermons: Want to revisit messages you hear in church? Here’s how to get them:

- Pick up a hard copy in the narthex (in the shelf beneath the signup sheets)
- Read, hear or watch it at stjohnsoakwood.org/worship. Recorded versions are usually available every Sunday.
- Browse all of our videos at our YouTube channel (@st.johnslutheran2392)

Prayer Requests. This week, please remember in your prayers:

- **Michelle Jaeckel**, who is recovering from gall bladder surgery
- **Mike Gramza**, who is recovering from emergency surgery to his carotid artery
- **Beverly Biba**, who is having continued complications due to hip surgery
- Our shut-ins, **Donna Glidden, Janice Willms, Marlene Mueller, and Paul & Rose Harvey**

If you have a request, please fill out a card in the narthex or speak with Pastor.

Offerings: There are multiple ways to give an offering! You can:

- Mail your offering to the church address
- Drop your offering in the box when you’re here
- Give electronically by scanning the code or visiting stjohnsoakwood.org/give.



Easter for Kids: A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped stuff eggs, set up tables, serve food, assist families, and much more during our annual Easter for Kids celebration. Most importantly, we were able to share the Easter resurrection message with eighteen children, 14 of whom were new to St. John’s. Praise God for opportunities to share his Gospel!

Northwestern Publishing House has all kinds of materials available for Easter and beyond: confirmation gifts, devotionals, music, and much more. There are flyers in the narthex with more information. You can also go to nph.net to find the full range of resources NPH offers.

Swap Meet: Our annual swap meet returns on Sun April 6 and will run for the duration of the month. If you would like to participate, please bring you items to church after Easter. See Erika Bahr with questions.

Anniversary Concert: As a part of their year long 175th anniversary celebration, First Ev. Lutheran Church in Racine will host the Laudamus Lutheran Chorale of Southeastern Wisconsin on Sun April 21 at 3:00 pm with a bratwurst dinner to follow.

Lawn Care: It won't be long before the grass turns green again. We will need volunteers to help keep it cut and looking nice throughout the warmer months. The more help we have, the less work it will be for everyone. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please speak with Mike Havey or Deacon Lambrecht.

Serving St. John's in April

Chancel:

Deacon Lambrecht (Thurs Setup)
 LuAnn Matyas (Thurs Takedown)
 Erika Bahr (Sun Setup)
 Jackie Balistreri (Sun Takedown)

Ushers:

Art Kruegel (Thurs)
 Dennis Cowan (Sun)
 Chad Frank (Sun)
 Dennis & Janis Cowan (Apr 7)
 LuAnn Matyas & Roni Block (Apr 21)

Organists:

Daniel Baker (Apr 4 & 7)
 Daniel Baker (Apr 11 & 14)
 Lisa Reckzin (Apr 18 & 21)
 Daniel Baker (Apr 25 & 28)

Sunday School Teachers

Jamie Dropik (Apr 7)
 Karen Borchardt (Apr 14)
 Chad Frank (Apr 21)
 Daniel Baker (Apr 28)

This Week at St. John's

Mon (Apr 1)	<i>No Catechism</i>	
Tue (Apr 2)	<i>No Bible Class</i>	
Thur (Apr 4)	Divine Service w/Holy Communion	6:30 PM
Sun (Apr 7)	Divine Service w/Holy Communion	9:00 AM
	Bible Class & Sunday School	10:15 AM