

# The Great Vigil of Easter



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Waukesha, WI

## Notes on the Easter Vigil by Pastor Johnold Strey (WELS)

### The Concept of a Vigil

A vigil is an evening service of Scripture readings and prayers in which believers *vigilantly* and eagerly wait and watch for the celebration of the Savior's deliverance. Old Testament believers waited through the night of the Passover for God to deliver them from the Egyptians. The midnight worship reported in Acts 20:7-12 is another example of late-night waiting and watching. One might say that our Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve services are vigils of sorts. Coming together for a vigil helps believers practice waiting patiently for God to reveal his will in his own good time.

### The History of the Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the most well known and historic of the Church's vigils. In fact, in its general structure, it is one of the most ancient rites of the Christian Church. Early records indicate that it may have been celebrated in Jerusalem already by the second century, and it soon spread to the rest of the church.

From its beginnings, the Easter Vigil was closely connected to Holy Baptism. In the pagan world, a conversion to Christianity meant making a clean break from one's former life style. It also meant facing difficult times, perhaps even death. The instruction of adults was, therefore, intensive and thorough, practical as well as intellectual. The instruction intensified during the season of Lent, as catechumens pondered not only the Savior's battle with evil, but also their own battle with Satan and his evil forces. The instruction culminated with baptism at the Easter Vigil. The timing was natural, of course:

"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" (Romans 6:3-4, NIV).

As the tide of adult conversions waned in Europe, and infant baptism became the norm, the purpose and understanding of the Vigil faded. Eventually, virtually all baptisms took place at times other than the Vigil. By the time of the Lutheran Reformation, the Vigil had fallen into disuse, although the Vigil continued uninterrupted in the Eastern Orthodox Church and remains a high point of Easter worship to this day.

### The Easter Vigil in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church

It is a well-documented phenomenon that, in an age of spacecraft and computers, more and more Christians are longing to return to the quiet and contemplative worship forms of the early Church. They are sensing a need to come into the presence of God whose love is above and beyond them. They desire worship that communicates God's transcendent majesty. For this and a number of other reasons, the Easter Vigil is enjoying a comeback in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Christian Church. With its quiet contemplation, slow-paced movement, and symbolic communication, the Easter Vigil is attractive to many Christians who are seeking a deeper and more thoughtful spirituality. Especially in churches that take the Church Year seriously, the Easter Vigil seems to mark the high point of Holy Week and the turning point from the somber Season of Lent to the joy of Easter. The Easter Vigil was introduced in WELS circles at our synod's *National Conference on Worship Music and the Arts* in 1996. Each year, more and more of our sister congregations are celebrating the Easter Vigil!

### **The Easter Vigil Order of Worship**

The Easter Vigil (sometimes called the *Paschal Vigil*) consists of four parts: the Service of Light, the Service of Readings (which is the actual Vigil), the Service of Baptism, and the Service of Holy Communion. The service begins after darkness has fallen on Holy Saturday. Ideally, the Vigil lasts through the night, with the baptisms taking place at dawn. For practical reasons, however, an all-night vigil is seldom held today.

The Service of Light focuses the entire Vigil on Christ, the Light of the world (symbolized by the paschal candle) who overcame the darkness of sin and death by his resurrection. The first song of the Vigil, the *Exsultet*, links our paschal feast with the first Passover and with God's deliverance of Israel at the Red Sea. The song introduces the theme of God's saving acts in history, a theme that runs through the Service of Readings.

There are 12 Old Testament readings traditionally appointed for the Easter Vigil. Most congregations use between four and seven, although Exodus 14:10-15:1 is invariably read. Unhurried periods of silence for reflection follow each lesson and help identify the service as a vigil.

When no baptisms take place in the Vigil, the Service of Holy Baptism identifies baptism as one of God's great acts of deliverance that has been applied to each individual Christian, connects baptism with Christ's resurrection, and gives believers an opportunity to publicly confess the faith into which they have been baptized.

An atmosphere of solemn anticipation and meditation (as well as relative darkness) is maintained until the proclamation, "Alleluia! Christ is risen," which marks the dramatic transition from darkness to light. This is reflected in the pace of the service and in the music. The tone for the rest of the service is one of solemn joy. The Vigil communion is relatively simple in form and style, since the chief celebration of Easter takes place on Easter morning. The highest festivities and ceremonies are usually reserved for the main Easter morning service.

### **Our Communion Practice**

Grace and Trinity practice the biblical practice of member (sometimes called close or closed communion) communion. If you are not a member of either church, we ask you to speak with one of the pastors before communion. We look forward to meeting you!

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Grace and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Churches  
Waukesha, WI

Saturday of Holy Week  
7:00 p.m.

## I. Service of Light

*The congregation assembles in the church in darkness and silence. All are given candles as they arrive. At the invitation of the presiding minister, the congregation stands and turns to face the procession in the back of the church.*

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** 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 Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

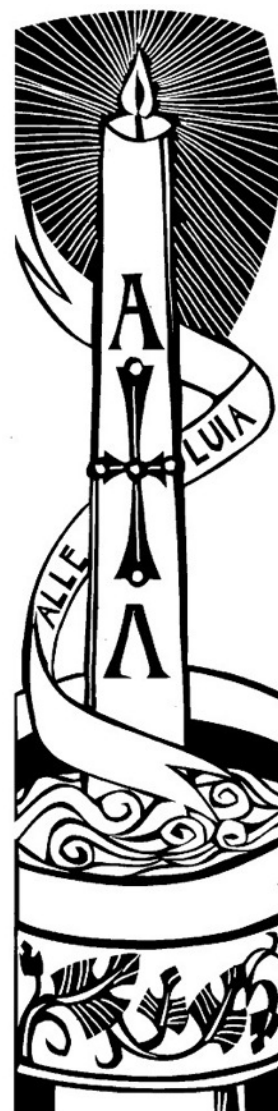
*The minister speaks the following prayer:*

**M:** 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, we ask you, those who keep this joyful Easter festival. Burning with desire for life with you, may we 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.

**C:** Amen.

*The acolyte, holding the paschal candle, steps forward. The minister traces the cross and the Greek letters (Alpha and Omega) upon it, saying:*

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



***The minister traces the circle on the candle, saying:***

**M:** His are time and eternity; his are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

***The minister makes the sign of the cross over the image of Christ on the candle, saying:***

**M:** By his wounds we are healed now and forever.

***The minister lights the paschal candle from the flame of the last Tenebrae candle.***

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

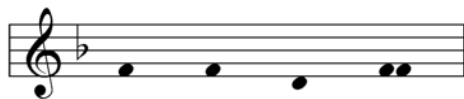
***The minister speaks the following prayer:***

**M:** Almighty and most merciful God, once we were in darkness, but now we are light in Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless abundantly all who joyfully celebrate this night in faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill them with your heavenly blessing in him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

***All light their candles from the flames taken from the paschal candle. Tip your candle to receive the flame, and hold it straight to pass on the flame.***

***The acolyte holds the candle high, and the minister and congregation sing in turn:***



**B** The light of Christ.



**C** Thanks be to God.

***The congregation turns toward the front of the church as the procession passes by. The procession stops halfway to the chancel. The acolyte holds the candle high, and the minister and congregation sing:***



**B** The light of Christ.



**C** Thanks be to God.

*The procession continues to the chancel. The acolyte holds the candle high, and the minister and congregation sing:*



**B** The light of Christ.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## EASTER PROCLAMATION

*Exsultet*



1 Re - joice, an - gel - ic choirs, re - joice! Re -  
2 O earth, ex - ult in ra - diance bright, il -  
3 Let all who gath - er round this flame, the



joice now, all cre - a - tion! Let trum - pets loud - ly  
lu - mined by Christ's splen - dor! Your dark - ness now is  
sign of Christ's a - ris - ing, the death - less light of

raise their voice to hail the Lord's sal - va - tion. Let  
 put to flight; to him due prais - es ren - der! Be  
 Christ ac - claim, his sav - ing mer - cy priz - ing; that

all Christ's ho - ly priest - hood sing the tri - umph of their  
 glad, O church! Sing out your songs! Your tem - ples fill with  
 all may live by faith in him who con - quered death, de -

might - y King in fes - tive cel - e - bra - tion!  
 shout - ing throngs to hail the glo - rious vic - tor!  
 spair and sin to make us his for - ev - er.

**M:** The Lord be with you.

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

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up to the Lord.

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**M:** 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 fathers, 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 grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night.

Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave you gave your Son.

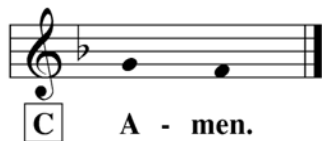
How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away.

How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast.

How blessed is this night when man 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.



***Extinguish your candles and then be seated.***



## II. Service of Readings

**M:** 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.

*Four Old Testament Lessons are read. The first reading reminds us of the perfect existence that will be restored to us in heaven. The other readings tell of God's great acts of deliverance in history, each prefiguring God's greatest act of deliverance in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. A lengthy period of silence for meditation and prayer follows the first three readings.*

### FIRST LESSON

**Genesis 1:1-2:3**

*The perfection of God's original creation*

*Silence for meditation follows the Lesson.*



**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you most wonderfully created human nature and yet 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.

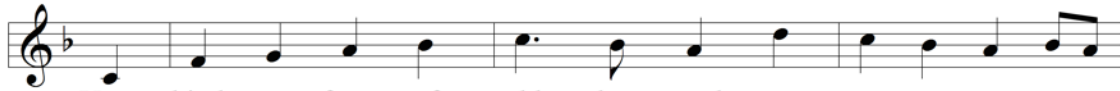
**C:** Amen.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 136



1 We thank you, Lord, for you are good;  
 2 You, Lord, a - lone did won - drous deeds; your mer-cy lives for - ev - er.  
 3 You made the star - ry lights to rise;  
 4 You res - cue us from ev' - ry foe;



Your kind - ness from of old has stood;  
 From you a - lone all good pro - ceeds; your love will keep us  
 Your glo - ries shine in ra - diant skies;  
 You feed your crea - tures here be - low;



ev - er. O God of gods, O sov - 'reign Lord, we  
 Your wis - dom made the heav'ns to be; you  
 Your glow - ing moon en - hanc - es night. Your  
 We give you thanks, Cre - a - tor, Lord; we



bless you now with one ac - cord:  
 formed the earth a - bove the sea: your love is ev - er - last - ing.  
 sun brings forth each morn - ing's light:  
 sing the glo - ries of your Word;

**SECOND LESSON**

**Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13**

*The Flood*

*Silence for meditation follows the Lesson.*

**M:** Let us pray.

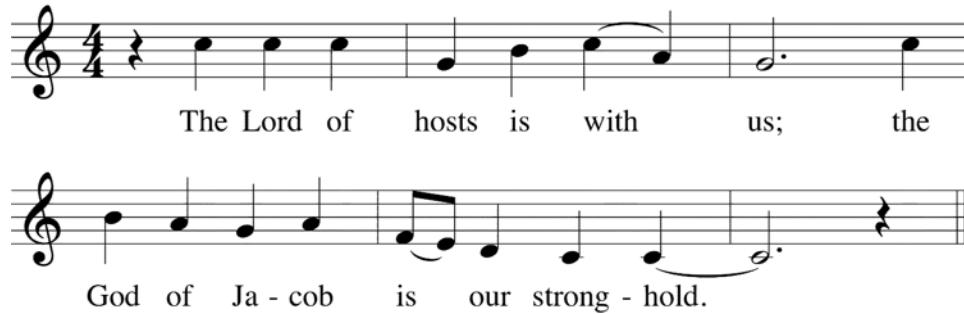
O Lord, whose wrath burned against the evil of humanity, you kill and bring again to life according to your own purpose; you brought the flood on a wicked and perverse generation and yet saved faithful Noah and his family. Gather your elect into your Church and so complete your work of mercy, that the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

**C: Amen.**

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 46

J. William Greene



Ch: Refrain

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

**C: Refrain**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day.

**C: Refrain**

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken and the earth shall melt away. Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, what awesome things he has done on earth.

**C: Refrain**

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

**C: Refrain**

THIRD LESSON

Exodus 14:10-15:1a

*Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea*

*Silence for meditation follows the Lesson.*

**M:** Let us pray.

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 our 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 make them children of Abraham; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** Amen.



**CANTICLE**

**The Song of Moses**

Scott Soper

Retrain *Cantor:* *All:*

I will sing, I will sing to the God who sets me free! I will

*Cantor:*

sing, I will sing to the God who sets me free! Phar-ao'h's

*All:*

ar - my and his char - i - ots God cast in - to the sea! Phar-ao'h's

ar - my and his char - i - ots God cast in - to the sea!

The Lord is my strength, my protection and my shield;  
Pharaoh's army and his chariots God cast into the sea.  
Our God is a warrior whose name is "the LORD,"  
God of might, God of victory!

**C: Refrain**

The brave and the mighty, the pride of Pharaoh's army,  
God plunged them to the bottom of the sea like a stone.  
The hand of the Lord is magnificent in power;  
The Lord has crushed our foes!

**C: Refrain**

O God who redeems, who delivers us from slavery,  
You set us on the mountain of your holy place.  
Your throne and your temple shall endure for all time;  
Your reign shall never end!

**C: Refrain**

## **FOURTH LESSON**

**Daniel 3:1-29**

*The three men delivered from the fiery furnace*

*Silence for meditation follows the Lesson.*

**M:** Let us pray.

O God, your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The canticle, "All You Works of the Lord," follows the Fourth Lesson. The canticle is printed on the next page. Please stand when the organist introduces the canticle.*

## ALL YOU WORKS OF THE LORD

### *Benedicite Omnia Opera*

**M:** All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.  
Praise him and magnify him forever.  
You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord;  
you heavens, bless the Lord;  
all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord—

**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

**M:** You sun and moon, bless the Lord;  
you stars of heaven, bless the Lord;  
you showers and dew, bless the Lord—

**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

**M:** You winds of God, bless the Lord;  
you fire and heat, bless the Lord;  
you winter and summer, bless the Lord—

**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

**M:** You dews and frost, bless the Lord;  
you frost and cold, bless the Lord;  
you ice and snow, bless the Lord—

**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

**M:** You nights and days, bless the Lord;  
you light and darkness, bless the Lord;  
you lightning and clouds, bless the Lord—



**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 (triplets), B4, A4, G4, and a final half note G4 with a fermata. The lyrics are aligned below the notes.

**M:** Let the earth bless the Lord:  
you mountains and hills, bless the Lord;  
all you green things that grow on the earth, bless the Lord—



**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 (triplets), B4, A4, G4, and a final half note G4 with a fermata. The lyrics are aligned below the notes.

**M:** You wells and springs, bless the Lord;  
you rivers and seas, bless the Lord;  
you whales and all who move in the seas, bless the Lord—



**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 (triplets), B4, A4, G4, and a final half note G4 with a fermata. The lyrics are aligned below the notes.

**M:** All you birds of the air, bless the Lord;  
all you beasts and cattle, bless the Lord;  
all you children of mortals, bless the Lord—



**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5 (triplets), B4, A4, G4, and a final half note G4 with a fermata. The lyrics are aligned below the notes.

**M:** You people of God, bless the Lord;  
you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;  
you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord—

**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

**M:** You spirits and souls of the righteous, bless the Lord;  
 you pure and humble of heart, bless the Lord;  
 let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit—

**C** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

*After the canticle, please be seated.*

### III. Service of Holy Baptism

**M:** 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: “Don’t you 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 done away with, 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.” (Romans 6:3-11, NIV)



## HYMN

## All Who Believe and Are Baptized

Christian Worship #299

*After the hymn, please stand.*

**M:** 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?

**C:** **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

**M:** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

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

**M:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**C:** **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.**

**M:** Do believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C:** **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.**

**M:** Do you intend to continue in this faith, to be diligent in the use of Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

**C:** **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**



**M:** 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.

**C:** Amen.

## MUSICAL OFFERING

### Christ lag in Todesbanden

*(‘Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands’)*

*Setting by Gottfried A. Homilius*

*During the Musical Offertory, the presiding minister changes from a purple stole, representing the season of Lent, into a white stole, representing the season of Easter.*

*You are encouraged to open to hymn #161 and meditate upon the words while the Musical Offering is played.*

## IV. Service of Holy Communion

*The altar candles are lighted from the paschal candle. The church bell is rung, the lights of the church are fully lit, and the minister and congregation proclaim:*

**M:** ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

**C:** (Shouts) HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Choir:

*Refrain*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**C:** Refrain

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.  
This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**C:** Refrain

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

**M:** The Gospel of the Lord!

*Refrain*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the resurrection of our Lord, preserve in all your people the Spirit of adoption which you have given, that they may serve you in faith and joy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## PREFACE

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** It is good and right so to do.

**M:** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

### *Sanctus*

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is

might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In  
he Who in God's name is com - ing To

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and  
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And in your  
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De - liv - er

grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.  
us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

*Please be seated.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Like the Golden Sun Ascending

Christian Worship #147

This Is the Feast of Victory

Christian Worship #265

The Choir sings the verses. The congregation sings the refrains.

After the distribution, please stand at the presiding minister's direction.

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

1 O Lord, now let your ser — vant De — part in peace, as —  
 2 All glo — ry to the Fa — ther, All glo — ry to the

ssured: For I have seen your pro — mised in —  
 Son, All glo — ry to the Spir — it, For —

car — nate, sav — ing Word. A light that will en —  
 ev — er three in One; For as in the beg —

light — en All gloom where Gen — tiles dwe — ll; the bril — lant,  
 in — ing, Is now shall ev — er be —, God's tri — une

crown — ing glo — ry Of those in Is — ra — el.  
 name re — sound — ing Through all et — ern — i — ty.

## COLLECT and BLESSING

**M:** 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.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and keep us.

**C:** Amen.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

**He Is Arisen! Glorious Word**

Christian Worship #162

*After the hymn, you may be seated.*

*A formal offering is not gathered as part of the Vigil. If you have an offering, you may leave it in the offering plate near the church entrance as you are dismissed.*



### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

### The Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord

*Easter Sunday + 6:30, 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.*

Please join us tomorrow morning for worship and our annual Easter breakfast as we continue our celebration of the Lord's resurrection!

+ Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion - 6:30 a.m.

+ Easter Breakfast - 7:30 a.m.

+ Easter Festival Services - 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.

*Completely different from the Sunrise Service*



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**The Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord**  
*Easter Sunday + 7:00 and 10:00 a.m*

- + Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m.
  - + Easter Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
  - + Easter Festival Service - 10:00 a.m.
- Completely different from the Sunrise Service*

**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

PRESIDING MINISTERS	Pastor Aaron L. Christie Pastor Lawrence R. Gates Pastor Jason C. Hacker Pastor Scott T. Oelhafen Senior Assistant Justin Gran
PRINCIPAL ORGANIST	Mark D. Davidson
CHOIR	Mixed Choir members of Trinity & Grace
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Jonathan A. Laabs
INSTRUMENTALISTS	Brian Genrich, Adam Sipe, trumpet Tracy Clouser, Eric Sipe, trombone Jessi Kolberg, flute Angela Hohenstein, clarinet Erin Laabs, tambourine