



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE TRIDUUM 2008

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 7:00 P.M.
GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 7:00 P.M.
THE VIGIL OF EASTER, MARCH 23, 7:00 A.M.**



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Our Mission:

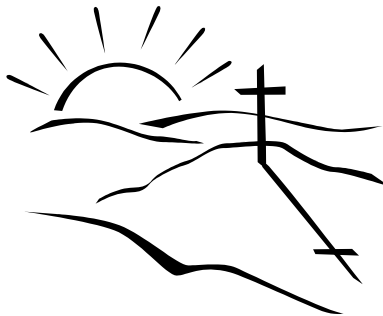
Love the Lord. Love each other. Study and spread his Word.

WELCOME to all our guests. It truly is a pleasure to have you with us today. In order to make your visit as enjoyable as possible, please allow us to answer some common questions about our church and our worship services.

- Our restrooms are located off the church entryway on either side of the drinking fountain. Baby changing stations are available in both restrooms.
- We encourage children of all ages to participate in our worship services. So, please don't be afraid to bring them into the service. However, we also realize that children can become restless. We have a nursery room with toys, books, chairs, and other items that you can use to help calm your child. Our ushers will be glad to direct you to the nursery room at any time.
- Our entire worship service is printed in this booklet. The order of service that we use is a version of the historic liturgy that the Christian Church has used for centuries. Red hymn books containing the hymns for the service are located in the racks on the pews. If at any time in the service you have a question, please feel free to ask someone sitting near you for help. We are more than happy to assist you in any way we can.
- **Headsets are available for those who desire assistance hearing the service.** Please speak to an usher to obtain a headset if you would like to use one during the service.
- Before you leave today, please sign our guest register. It is located on the lectern in the church entryway.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to speak to our pastor. Our ushers and greeters also stand ready to assist you.

God bless your visit. We hope to see you again soon.



INTRODUCTION TO THE TRIDUUM

After six weeks of Lent, the Christian Year has now reached its climax. We have come to the celebration of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the celebration for which we have been preparing throughout Lent. Now we see what our Savior came to do. We see him suffer and die for our sins and for the sins of the world. And we see him rise triumphantly on Easter morning to assure us that our salvation is complete, the victory is won.

The three days that mark this climax of the Christian Year—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday—have come to be known as the *Triduum*, or the Three Holy Days of Christendom. Together they form a unit. Therefore, as we celebrate these Three Holy Days, our worship will form a unit. What follows is a *single service*, celebrated over three days, which will take us through our Savior’s sufferings to his glorious triumph on Easter.

Because this service is a unit, please note the following things:

- There is no benediction after Parts 1 and 2. The benediction will occur at the end of the service on Easter morning.
- After Parts 1 and 2, the congregation is asked to leave the church *in silence*.
- Since this worship folder will be used for the entire service over the next three days, please return it to one of the ushers as you leave the church on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

May the risen Christ bless our worship as we celebrate his passion and resurrection.

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PART 1:
DIVINE SERVICE FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY
INCLUDING THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR
MARCH 20, 2008, 7:00 P.M.

Introduction

Just as Ash Wednesday begins Lent, so Maundy Thursday marks the end of Lent proper and the beginning of the Three Holy Days of Christendom. The theme of our celebration is the Lord's new command to his disciples of all time to love each other as he has loved us. The institution of the Lord's Supper sets forth the depth of Jesus' love and gives power to the church to live out Jesus' command.

Maundy Thursday marks the end of our Lenten preparation and begins our transition from preparation for Easter to the celebration of Easter. To underscore this fact, the sermon is placed at the beginning of the service, followed by the Instruction for the End of Lent and the Confession of Sins.

After we celebrate the Lord's Supper, the service will move from the upper room in Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane in preparation for Good Friday. The altar, which represents the presence of Christ, becomes the focus. After the Communion table has been removed, we will solemnly strip the altar of its vestments and appointments in token of the abandonment that Jesus suffered during his passion.

As we hear our Savior's command and see him demonstrate his love for us this evening, may his love move us to love him and one another out of profound gratitude for all that he has done for us. And may his Holy Supper strengthen us with the forgiveness of sins and the newness of life that he gives us in this sacrament.

A Note to All Our Guests

During this service, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Since this sacrament is the Lord's Supper and not ours, we are careful to follow our Lord's instructions. In particular, we take to heart these important truths:

1. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus truly gives us his body and blood together with the bread and the wine. Jesus says, "Take and eat; this is my body...Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood" (Matthew 26:26-28).
2. In the Lord's Supper, we express a unity of faith with one another. "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf" (1 Corinthians 10:17).
3. Our Lord urges us to practice this unity with great love and care. "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Corinthians 11:27,29).

Because we take these truths seriously, we invite all communicant members of our congregation or of a sister congregation in the Wisconsin Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune with us today. However, we ask that those who are not members of a sister congregation refrain from taking the Lord's Supper with us at this time. In doing this, we are not judging anyone's faith. Out of love for our Lord and all people, we simply desire to discuss the Bible's teachings with our guests before communing together. We want all who commune to receive the Lord's Supper for their benefit and in a way that follows our Lord's instructions. If you have any questions about this or any other teaching of the Bible—or if you would like information about how to join our congregation—please feel free to speak to our pastor.

BEFORE WORSHIP

Personal Prayers for Worship are found on pages 10-11 in the front part of the hymnal.

A Personal Preparation for Holy Communion is found on page 156 in the front part of the hymnal.

HYMN

Glory in the Cross
Words and Music by Dan Schutte

Insert “Glory in the Cross (Maundy Thursday)” Graphic here.

SERMON

Crossroad 7 – From Pilate to Golgotha

Luke 23:26-31

Remain seated.

INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

M: In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Please stand.

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father,
I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.
In what I have done and left undone,
I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.
I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.
For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.
I am truly sorry for my sins.
I repent of them.
I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

Silence for meditation.

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**C: Cleanse me from my sins.
Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

EXHORTATION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

C: Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on the cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this Sacrament to our eternal good, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:1-14

God gives the people of Israel his instructions for the Passover.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.” (NIV)

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 116: Blessed Are You
Words and music by Dan Schutte

Insert "Blessed Are You" Graphic here.

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Paul reminds us of the institution and meaning of the Lord's Supper.

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. (NIV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
(1 Corinthians 11:26)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 13:1-15,34

Jesus shows his love by washing his disciples' feet and gives them his "new command" to love one another as he has loved them.

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (NIV)

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

**'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night
Hymn 136**

OFFERING

Please stand.

THE GREAT LITANY

Prayer of Approach to God

M: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

C: Have mercy on us.

M: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: Have mercy on us.

M: O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,

C: Have mercy on us.

M: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,

C: Have mercy on us.

Prayer for Deliverance

M: Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses nor the offenses of our forebears. Spare us, good Lord; spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

M: From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: From all deadly sin and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart and contempt for your Word and your will,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: From earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire, and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

Prayer Recalling Christ's Saving Work

M: By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: By your bloody sweat and bitter grief, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: By your mighty resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: In our times of trouble, in our times of prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

M: Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Prayer for the Church

M: Govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to your will.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Enlighten all ministers with true knowledge and understanding of your Word, that by their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Bless and keep your people, that all may find and follow their true vocation and ministry.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Give us hearts to love and revere you, that we may diligently live according to your commandments.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: To all your people, give grace to hear and receive your Word and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the fainthearted, raise up those who fall, and finally give us the victory.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Prayer for Our Country

M: Rule the hearts of your servants, *the president of the United States*, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection, and shield them in all dangers and adversities.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Prayer for All People

M: To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord, and to all people give clothing, food, and shelter.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach and all who learn.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show your pity on all prisoners and captives.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth and all young children, and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate and oppressed.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Heal those who are sick in body or mind, and give skill and compassion to all who care for them.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

M: Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your Holy Word.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Concluding Prayer

M: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

C: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

M: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Have mercy on us.

M: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Have mercy on us.

M: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Grant us peace.

M: Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Christ, have mercy on us.

M: Lord, have mercy on us.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

M: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you, and you have promised through your beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be with them. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth and in the ages to come, life everlasting.

C: Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (sung) And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sung) We lift them up to the Lord.

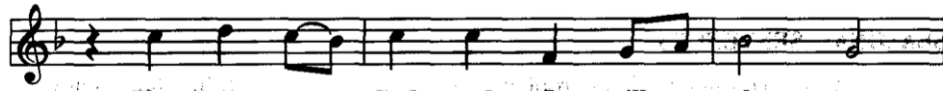
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: (sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

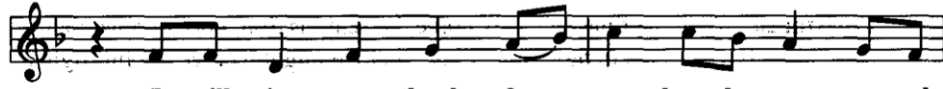
M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our 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 for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sanctus)

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "The whole earth is full of your glo - ry." The lyrics are printed below the corresponding notes.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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: *(sung)* Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



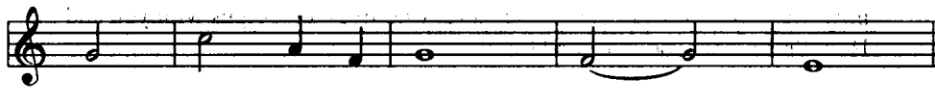
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



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.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

C: Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up our hearts with thanksgiving and praise. Through the blood of your covenant, you have made us worthy to receive your Holy Supper. In this sacrament, time and eternity meet as we celebrate a foretaste of the feast now enjoyed by all who are in heavenly glory. As we receive your true body and blood, we rejoice in our salvation through you, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Guests, please read and take note of the explanation of our communion practice on page 5 in this worship folder. If you have any questions about this or any other Bible teaching, please feel free to speak to the pastor after the service. We thank you for your help.

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“As I Have Done for You”
Words and music by Dan Schutte

Insert “As I Have Done for You” Part 1 Graphic here.

Insert “As I Have Done for You” Part 2 Graphic here.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

**Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
Hymn 311**

THANKSGIVING

Remain seated.

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

SONG

“Holy Is God”

Words and music by Dan Schutte

The congregation is invited to join in singing this song repeatedly as the Communion vessels are removed from the altar.

Insert “Holy Is God” Graphic here.

PSALM 88

Psalm 88 is sung by the minister. During the singing of the psalm, the altar is solemnly stripped in token of the Lord’s abandonment by his disciples and in preparation for Good Friday.

After the completion of the psalm, the congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

As you leave, please return this worship folder to one of the ushers, so that we may use it again when we gather for worship tomorrow.

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PART 2:
SERVICE OF DARKNESS FOR GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 21, 2008, 7:00 P.M.

Introduction

The Service of Darkness, or in Latin *Officium Tenebrae*, is a service held on Good Friday evening in which the progressive extinguishing of candles represents the snuffing out of the life of Christ. After recalling the last hours of the Savior's life in the Gospel from St. John, we come to stand, as it were, at the foot of the cross. In psalms and lessons we remember the physical and spiritual torment that Jesus endured as he atoned for the sins of the world.

The sounds and sights of the service mean to be austere and stark, but the service is never without hope and anticipation. As worship nears an end this evening, a remaining candle, a symbol of the Lord himself, is carried out of the church. The silence is broken with a loud noise—the *strepitus*—that foreshadows the rending of Christ's tomb in triumph on Easter morning. With quiet drama the candle then returns to the sanctuary. Even on Good Friday, our worship honors a *living* Christ.

BEFORE WORSHIP

Personal Prayers for Worship are found on pages 10-11 in the front part of the hymnal.

Silence for meditation

The Tenebrae candelabra is lighted.

SONG

“Be My Refuge”

Words (based on Psalm 31) and music by Dan Schutte

Insert “Be My Refuge” Graphic here.

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 19:17-30

M: A reading from the Gospel of St. John:

Carrying his own cross, Jesus went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, “They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.” So this is what the soldiers did.

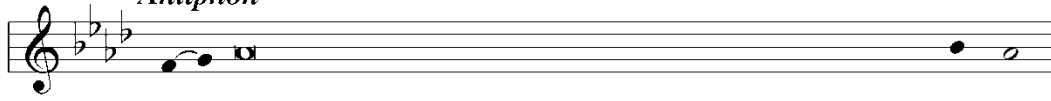
Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

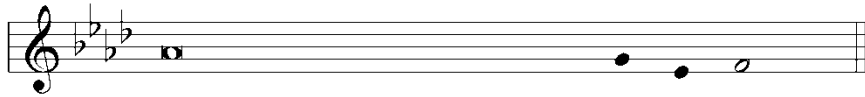
Please be seated.

PSALM 2

Antiphon



The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather to - geth - er



against the LORD and against his A - noint-ed One.

Psalm tone



M: (*Antiphon*) The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

M: Why do the nations | conspire

And the peoples | plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together

a- | gainst the LORD

And against his A- | nointed One.

C: “Let us break their | chains,” they say,

“And throw off their | fetters.”

The One enthroned in | heaven laughs;

The Lord | scoffs at them.

M: Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, | saying,

“I have installed my King on Zion, my | holy hill.”

I will proclaim the decree | of the LORD:

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your | Father.

C: Ask of me, and I will make the nations your in- | heritance,

The ends of the earth your pos- | session.

You will rule them with an iron | scepter;

You will dash them to pieces like | pottery.”

M: Therefore, you kings, | be wise;

Be warned, you rulers | of the earth.

Serve the | LORD with fear

And rejoice with | trembling.

C: **Kiss the Son, lest he be | angry**

And you be destroyed in | your way,

For his wrath can flare up in a | moment.

Blessed are all who take re- | fuge in him.

C: (*Antiphon*) **The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.**

The first candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

PSALM 22:1-21

chanted by the minister

Antiphon: They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the praise of Israel.

In you our fathers put their trust; They trusted and you delivered them.

They cried to you and were saved; In you they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man, Scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me; They hurl insults, shaking their heads:

“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

Yet you brought me out of the womb; You made me trust in you even at my mother’s breast.

From birth I was cast upon you; From my mother’s womb you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, For trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls surround me; Strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

Roaring lions tearing their prey Open their mouths wide against me.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

You lay me in the dust of death.

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,

They have pierced my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones; People stare and gloat over me.

They divide my garments among them And cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

Deliver my life from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dogs.

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; Save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

Antiphon: They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

The second candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

PSALM 27

Antiphon



False wit-nes-ses rise up a - gainst me, breath-ing out vi - o-lence.

Psalm tone



M: (*Antiphon*) False witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.

M: The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I | be afraid?

**C: When evil men advance against me to devour | my flesh,
When my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble | and fall.**

M: Though an army besiege me, my heart | will not fear;

Though war break out against me, even then will I be | confident.

**C: One thing I ask of the LORD, this is | what I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his | temple.**

M: For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his | dwelling;

He will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high up- | on a
rock.

**C: Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who sur- | round me;
At his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and
make music | to the LORD.**

M: Hear my voice when I | call, O LORD;

Be merciful to me and | answer me.

**C: My heart says of you, | “Seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, | I will seek.**

M: Do not hide your | face from me,

Do not turn your servant away in | anger;

**C: You have been my | helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my | Savior.**

M: Though my father and mother for- | sake me,

The LORD will re- | ceive me.

**C: Teach me your | way, O LORD;
Lead me in a straight path because of my op- | pressors.**

M: Do not turn me over to the desire of | my foes,

For false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out | violence.

**C: I am still confi- | dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the | living.**

M: Wait | for the LORD;

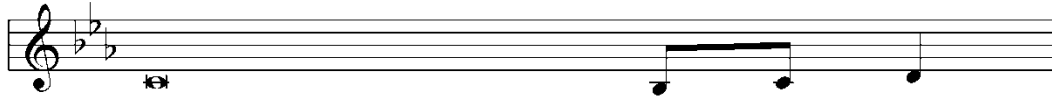
Be strong and take heart and wait | for the LORD.

C: (Antiphon) False witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.

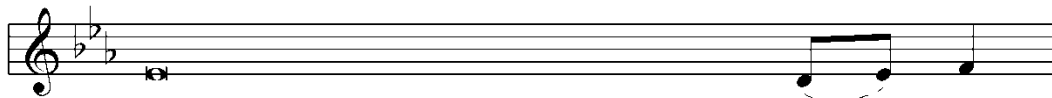
The third candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

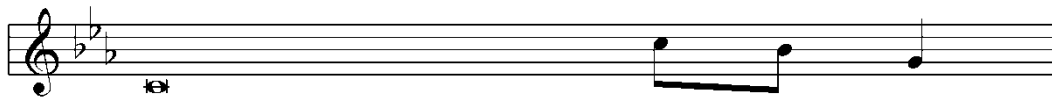
SEEK THE LORD (Quaerite Dominum)



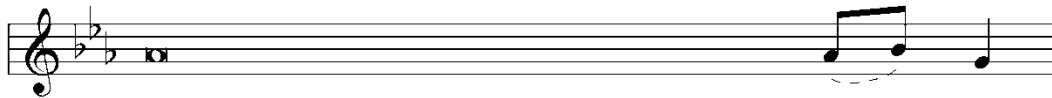
1 Seek the Lord while he may be found;
2 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
3 and making it bud and flour - ish,



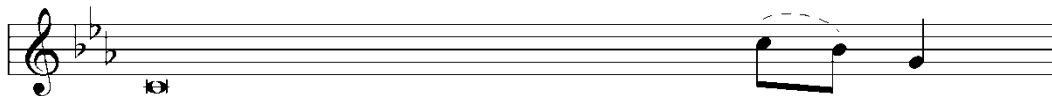
1 call upon him while he is near.
2 neither are your ways my ways," de - clares the Lord.
3 so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eat - er,



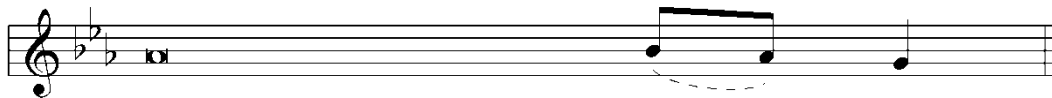
1 Let the wicked for - sake his way
2 "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
3 so is my word that goes out from my mouth:



1 and the evil man his thoughts.
2 so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
3 It will not return to me emp - ty;



1 Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mer - cy on him,
2 As the rain and the snow come down from heav - en
3 but will accomplish what I de - sire



1 and to our God, for he will freely par - don.
2 and do not return to it without water - ing the earth
3 and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

Please stand.

HYMN

Glory in the Cross
Words and music by Dan Schutte

Insert “Glory in the Cross (Good Friday)” Graphic here.

Please be seated.

LESSON**Lamentations 1:1-5**

M: A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet:

How deserted lies the city, once so full of people!
How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations!
She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.
Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are upon her cheeks.
Among all her lovers there is none to comfort her.
All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.
After affliction and harsh labor, Judah has gone into exile.
She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.
All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.
The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed feasts.
All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan,
her maidens grieve, and she is in bitter anguish.
Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease.
The LORD has brought her grief because of her many sins.
Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

Insert "We Sing the Savior's Glory" Graphic here.

LESSON**Lamentations 1:6-9**

M: A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet:

All the splendor has departed from the Daughter of Zion.
Her princes are like deer that find no pasture;
in weakness they have fled before the pursuer.

In the days of her affliction and wandering, Jerusalem remembers all the treasures that were
hers in days of old.

When her people fell into enemy hands there was no one to help her.
Her enemies looked at her and laughed at her destruction.

Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean.
All who honored her despise her nakedness;
she herself groans and turns away.

Her filthiness clung to her skirts; she did not consider her future.
Her fall was astounding; there was none to comfort her.
“Look, O LORD, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed.”

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

Insert “We Sing the Savior’s Glory” Graphic here.

LESSON

Lamentations 1:10-14

M: A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet:

The enemy laid hands on all her treasures;
she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuary—
those you had forbidden to enter your assembly.

All her people groan as they search for bread;
they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive.
“Look, O LORD, and consider, for I am despised.”

“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see.
Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me,
that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?

“From on high he sent fire, sent it down into my bones.
He spread a net for my feet and turned me back.
He made me desolate, faint all the day long.

“My sins have been bound into a yoke; by his hands they were woven together.
They have come upon my neck and the Lord has sapped my strength.
He has handed me over to those I cannot withstand.”

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

Insert “We Sing the Savior’s Glory” Graphic here.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

Crossroad 8 – Dead End?

1. Not for the centurion.
2. Not for us.

Please stand.

CANTICLE

Magnificat (Song of Mary)

Words from Fünf auserlesene geistliche Lieder, Marburg, 1535

Translation by John T. Mueller, 1885-1967, alt.

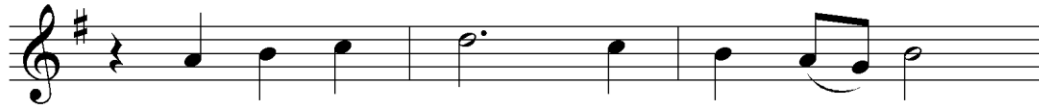
Tune by Hal H. Hopson



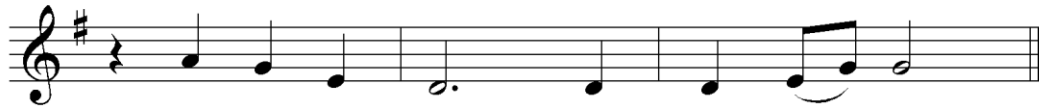
1. My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord;
 2. Hence - forth shall peo - ple call me blest,
 3. His mer - cy is on all who fear,
 4. He brings down rul - ers from their seat
 5. He helped his ser - vant Is - ra - el,
 6. So praise with me the Ho - ly One,



My spir - it shall in God re - jice.
 For great things he has done for me.
 Who trust in him from age to age.
 And rais - es those of low de - gree.
 Re - mem - b'ring his e - ter - nal grace,
 Who comes in all hu - mi - li - ty.



My hum - ble state he did re - gard,
 The might - y God is now my guest;
 His arm of strength to all is near;
 He fills the hun - gry souls with meat;
 As from of old he did fore - tell
 To our Re - deem - er, God's own Son,



Ex - al - ting me by gra - cious choice.
 The Ho - ly One has set me free.
 The proud he scat - ters, though they rage.
 The rich de - part in pov - er - ty.
 To A - bra - ham and all his race.
 Be glo - ry in e - ter - ni - ty.

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Please be seated.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

The SENTENCE is said or sung.

M: Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has exalted him to the highest place and given him the name that is above every name.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

Please be seated.

PSALM 51

M: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
Cleans me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn back to you.
Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;
build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

The seventh candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, graciously behold this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Christ candle is removed from the chancel, and the church is left in darkness. After a period of silence, a loud noise representing the rending of Christ's tomb is heard and the Christ candle is returned to the chancel.

SOLO

Lord, Let at Last Your Angels Come Hymn 434, st. 3

Lord, let at last your angels come;
To Abram's bosom bear me home
That I may die unfearing.
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until your reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
That my own eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, your glorious face,
My Savior and my Fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ,
My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise you without end.

The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

If you wish to give an offering, you may place it in the offering plates as you leave the sanctuary.

Please return this worship folder to the ushers so that we may use it again when we gather for worship on Easter morning.

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**PART 3:
THE VIGIL OF EASTER
A CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION
AND OUR BAPTISM
MARCH 23, 2008, 7:00 A.M.**

A Note to All Our Guests

During this service, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Since this sacrament is the Lord's Supper and not ours, we are careful to follow our Lord's instructions. In particular, we take to heart these important truths:

1. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus truly gives us his body and blood together with the bread and the wine. Jesus says, "Take and eat; this is my body...Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood" (Matthew 26:26-28).
2. In the Lord's Supper, we express a unity of faith with one another. "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf" (1 Corinthians 10:17).
3. Our Lord urges us to practice this unity with great love and care. "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Corinthians 11:27,29).

Because we take these truths seriously, we invite all communicant members of our congregation or of a sister congregation in the Wisconsin Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune with us today. However, we ask that those who are not members of a sister congregation refrain from taking the Lord's Supper with us at this time. In doing this, we are not judging anyone's faith. Out of love for our Lord and all people, we simply desire to discuss the Bible's teachings with our guests before communing together. We want all who commune to receive the Lord's Supper for their benefit and in a way that follows our Lord's instructions. If you have any questions about this or any other teaching of the Bible—or if you would like information about how to join our congregation—please feel free to speak to our pastor.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

The congregation gathers in the fellowship hall, and at the beginning of the service moves into church entryway. All are given candles to be lit later from the paschal candle.

HOLY DARKNESS

Words and music by Dan Schutte

Insert "Holy Darkness" Graphic here.

In the semidarkness a fire is kindled.

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

C: Amen.

M: On this most holy day, on 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.

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, this new flame and 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 candle bearer, holding the paschal candle, steps forward. The minister traces the cross and the Greek letters A and Ω (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 year upon the candle, saying:

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

The minister puts the five wax nails representing the wounds of Christ into the candle, saying:

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

Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, the minister says:

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

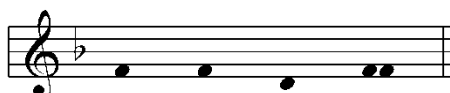
M: Almighty and most merciful Father, once we were darkness, but now we are light in Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless abundantly all who joyfully celebrate this day in faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill them with your heavenly blessing in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy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

C: Amen.

All light their candles from the paschal candle. Then all follow in procession into the dark church. As the procession begins, the minister pauses and sings:



B The light of Christ.

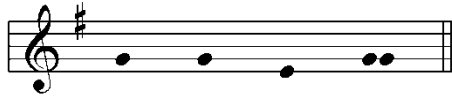


C Thanks be to God.

Halfway to the altar, the minister pauses and sings a second time:



B The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.

When the minister arrives before the altar, he faces the congregation, lifts the candle high, and sings a third time:



B The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.

The minister places the paschal candle in its stand in the center of the chancel.

MOST HOLY NIGHT (*Exsultet*)

Words and music by Dan Schutte

Insert "Most Holy Night" Graphic here.

Choir: *Refrain*

Cantors: Rejoice, O children of the earth
and holy ones in heaven above!
Be glad this blessed night
and join creation's song!

Rejoice and sing, O Mother Church!
The Savior's glory shines on you.
O let this holy place resound
with joyful songs of praise!
Let every tear be wiped away.
Let every sorrow fade.
For Jesus the Christ is risen from the grave.

Congregation:

Refrain

Cantors:

For truly it is right and just
that on this night we sing with joy
to praise and thank the unseen God
and Jesus Christ the Son.
The power of this holy night
dispels the darkness of our shame,
for Christ has saved us with his blood
and ransomed us from death.
O happy fault of Adam's sin!
O blessed day of grace
which gained for us a Savior, Christ the Lord.

Congregation:

Refrain

Cantors:

For this is the Passover feast of God
when Christ the blessed Lamb is slain,
whose holy blood has marked our homes
and sheltered us from death.
This holy night makes all things new,
our hearts restored to holiness.
washed clean of every stain of sin
and bathed in heaven's light.
How wonderful your care for us!
How boundless is your love!
To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

Congregation:

Refrain

Cantors:

Creator of the heavenly lights,
we sing to you with grateful hearts.
Receive this offering of our praise,
our evening son of joy.
Accept from us this Easter flame
that joins with all the stars of night
to guide the journey of our feet
and lead us with its light.
For Jesus Christ, the Morning Star
whose light will never fade,
has shattered the night to bring his endless day!

Congregation:

Refrain

Please be seated

SERVICE OF LESSONS

The congregation extinguishes its candles. A few lights in the nave may be turned on.

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.

CREATION

Genesis 1:1–2:3

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 an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse "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 expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse 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 expanse 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. 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 expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, 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: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and 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 man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; 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 of the sea and the birds of the air 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 of

the air and all the creatures that move on 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. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. (NIV)

RESPONSE

“On This Most Holy Day”
Words and music by Dan Schutte
Arranged by Bob Harrold

Insert “On This Most Holy Day” Graphic here.

Choir: *Refrain*

Congregation: ***Refrain***

Cantor: By your wisdom, O God, you created the earth.
In the light of your glory, the heavens were made.

Choir: *Refrain*

Congregation: ***Refrain***

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.**

THE FLOOD

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

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 of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven 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 the 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 no place to set its feet 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 upon 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 cut off 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: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (NIV)

RESPONSE

“On This Most Holy Day”
Words and music by Dan Schutte
Arranged by Bob Harrold

Insert “On This Most Holy Day” Graphic here.

Choir: *Refrain*

Congregation: ***Refrain***

Cantor: For the hand of the Lord has redeemed us from death.
We proclaim to the nations the glory of God.

Choir: *Refrain*

Congregation: ***Refrain***

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 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.

TESTING OF ABRAHAM

Genesis 22:1-18

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." (NIV)

RESPONSE

"On This Most Holy Day"

Words and music by Dan Schutte

Arranged by Bob Harrold

Insert "On This Most Holy Day" Graphic here.

Choir: Refrain

Congregation: Refrain

*Cantor: You protect us, O God, with the might of your love.
You will ever defend us and keep us from harm.*

Choir: Refrain

Congregation: Refrain

M: Let us pray.

O God, you promised to faithful Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, and through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, you increase your chosen people throughout the world. Give to your Church a living trust in all your promises, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10–15:1

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

"I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.

The horse and its rider
he has hurled into the sea." (NIV)

RESPONSE

“On This Most Holy Day”
Words and music by Dan Schutte
Arranged by Bob Harrold

Insert “On This Most Holy Day” Graphic here.

Choir: Refrain

Congregation: Refrain

Cantor: Through the waters of death you delivered our way.
In the land of your promise you brought us to stay.

Choir: Refrain

Congregation: Refrain

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 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.

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL

Isaiah 55:1-11

“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." (NIV)

RESPONSE

“On This Most Holy Day”
Words and music by Dan Schutte
Arranged by Bob Harrold

Insert “On This Most Holy Day” Graphic here.

Choir: *Refrain*

Congregation: ***Refrain***

Cantor: Let us drink of your grace from the fountain of life.
In the springs of salvation, our souls will rejoice.

Choir: *Refrain*

Congregation: ***Refrain***

M: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

" For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God." (NIV)

RESPONSE

"On This Most Holy Day"

Words and music by Dan Schutte

Arranged by Bob Harrold

Insert "On This Most Holy Day" Graphic here.

Choir: Refrain

Congregation: Refrain

Cantor: Let us dwell in your house all the days of our lives.
As the deer longs for water, our souls thirst for you.

Choir: Refrain

Congregation: Refrain

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in the miracle of Easter you raised your Son for our justification and through him have given us a new heart and spirit. Give power to your holy people to show in their lives what they confess with their lips, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

FAITH STRAINED BUT VICTORIOUS

Job 19:20-27

I am nothing but skin and bones;
I have escaped with only the skin of my teeth.
"Have pity on me, my friends, have pity,
for the hand of God has struck me.
Why do you pursue me as God does?
Will you never get enough of my flesh?
"Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!" (NIV)

RESPONSE

"On This Most Holy Day"
Words and music by Dan Schutte
Arranged by Bob Harrold

Insert "On This Most Holy Day" Graphic here.

Choir: *Refrain*

Congregation: *Refrain*

Cantor: We give thanks to your name, gracious God of our joy,
for your mercy is boundless, your love never fails.

Choir: *Refrain*

Congregation: *Refrain*

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son, you brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death to life. Give your servants patience and endurance that, looking in faith to your Son, we may see beyond the trials of this life to the joys of the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Please stand

ALL YOU WORKS OF THE LORD (*Benedicite, Omnia Opera*)

The canticle is sung as the paschal candle is carried to the font.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Please be seated

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.”

RIVER OF GLORY

Words and music by Dan Schutte

Insert “River of Glory” Graphic here.

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 you 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.

The paschal candle is returned to its stand.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The altar candles and other candles in the church are now lit from the paschal candle. The lights of the church are fully lit, and the minister proclaims:

M: ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

C: HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

The minister introduces the Alleluia refrain immediately after the Easter greeting.

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Insert "Gospel Acclamation" Graphic here.

M: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done.

Insert "Gospel Acclamation" Graphic here.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

The resurrection of Jesus.

The Gospel is read from the midst of the congregation.

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 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."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (NIV)

After the Gospel, the Minister will say:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Insert "Gospel Acclamation" Graphic here.

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, 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**

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(spoken)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(spoken)* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*)

C | Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n 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.

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*)

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. A - men.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

C: Lord God, you do not desire the death of a sinner, but that he turn from his evil way and live. I come to you, although I have sinned and deserve only your anger and punishment. But I flee to your mercy in Christ Jesus, my Savior, who gave his body and blood to pay for all my sins. Grant that in such faith I may worthily go to your table and receive the very body and blood that your Son has given for my salvation. Hear me for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Guests, please read and take note of the explanation of our communion practice on page 24 in this worship folder. If you have any questions about this or any other Bible teaching, please feel free to speak to the pastor after the service. We thank you for your help.

During the distribution of the Lord's Supper, the congregation will sing the following hymns.

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

Insert “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” Graphic here.

GLORY IN THE CROSS

Words and music by Dan Schutte

Insert “Glory in the Cross (Maundy Thursday)” Graphic here.

THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

SONG OF SIMEON (*Nunc Dimittis*)

In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de -
part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal -
va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple, a
light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry, the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

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.**

BENEDICTION

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

EASTER HYMN SING

As time allows, we will sing favorite Easter hymns as requested by members of the congregation. You will find the Easter hymns in our hymnal from Hymn 141 through Hymn 168.

Silent prayer.

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