



4200 Shenandoah Drive,
Louisville, KY 40241
Steven Lange, Pastor
(502) 423-1211

E-mail: pastor.lange@insightbb.com
Blog: <http://pastorlange.blogspot.com>

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 book. 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.
- 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.

CONTENTS

Part 1: Divine Service for Maundy Thursday, including the Stripping of the Altar	p. 4
Part 2: Service of Meditation on the Cross of Christ	p. 17
Part 3: The Vigil of Easter	p. 24

PART 1:
DIVINE SERVICE FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY
INCLUDING THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR
APRIL 5, 2007, 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

**Behold the Lamb of God
Hymn 101**

SERMON

Matthew 26:26-30

Behold the Hidden Glory of the Cross...Hidden in the Savior’s Feast

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

The Lord gives his people 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

Page 107 in the front part of the hymnal

The congregation will sing the entire psalm together.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:15-25

*Through the blood of Jesus, we enjoy the forgiveness of sins
and the certain hope of eternal life.*

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 22:7-20

Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."

They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (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.

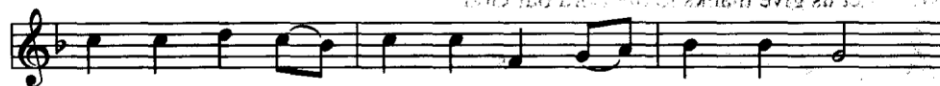
C: *(sung)* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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*)



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



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

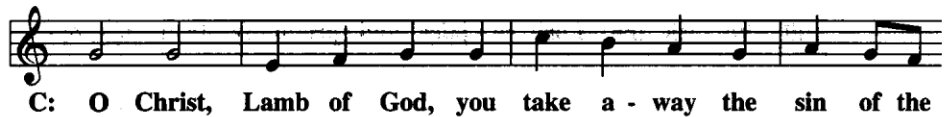
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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*)



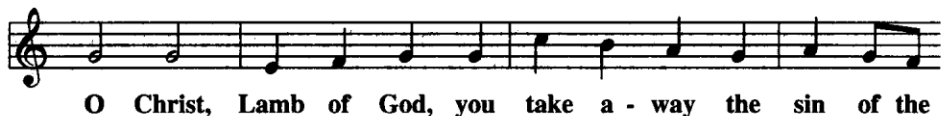
C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



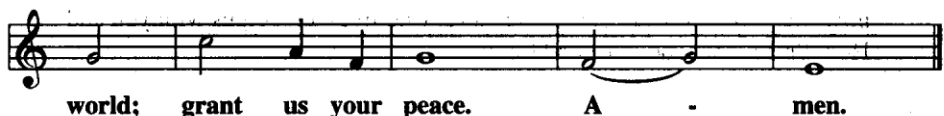
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Come to the Table”

Words and music by Jayne R. Nitz

Come to the table, where Jesus said to come
On the night he was abandoned, denied and betrayed.
He invited his disciples, and for us he does the same:

Refrain:

This is my body, this is my blood,
Given to forgive the sins of everyone.
Take and eat the bread. Take and drink the wine.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Come to the table, where Jesus said to come.
Overwhelmed by my offenses and the guilt that I feel,
I will welcome the assurance Jesus offers in this meal:

Refrain

Come to the table, where Jesus said to come.
When my earthly life is over, I'll kneel at his throne
And we'll eat and drink together in our everlasting home.

Refrain

Copyright © 2006 by Jayne R. Nitz. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

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

HYMN

**What Wondrous Love Is This
Hymn 120, st. 1 and 2**

During the hymn, the Communion vessels are removed from the altar.

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.

Scripture is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NIV. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.
Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Order of Worship for Maundy Thursday: ©2004 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-702363

PART 2:
SERVICE OF MEDITATION ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST
APRIL 6, 2007, 7:00 P.M.

Silence for meditation.

The minister enters in silence.

Please stand

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

M: Let us pray.

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

THE WORD

LESSON

Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Jesus suffers for our sins.

Silence for prayer and meditation

HYMN

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
Hymn 100

GOSPEL

John 18:1—19:42
The history of our Lord's suffering and death.

The congregation stands at John 19:17 and remains standing for the remainder of the reading. A brief silence may be observed at the words telling of Jesus' death (John 19:30). The congregation is seated at the conclusion of the reading.

Silence for prayer and meditation

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
Hymn 105

SERMON

John 19:31-37

Behold the Hidden Glory of the Cross...Hidden in the Savior's Promises

Please stand

BIDDING PRAYER

An assistant minister reads the invitations to prayer (bids). The minister then will read the petitions.

A: Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to your Word so that in every adversity, we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior's work, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism, that each day they may die to sin and rise again to live new and holy lives, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly calamities that threaten us.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one, true God and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you, whose name we bear. We ask that you would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and faith so that they may be glad with us and find joy in your love, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our grief and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation, that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in your grace, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught 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

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST

The lights in the sanctuary are dimmed.

RESPONSES

M: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship him.

M: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship him.

M: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship him.

Please be seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Cross Was His Own”

Music by Tom Fetke

They borrowed a bed to lay his head
When Christ the Lord came down.
The borrowed a colt on the mountain slope
For him to ride to town.

Refrain:

But the crown that he wore
And the cross that he bore were his own.
The cross was his own. The cross was his own.

He borrowed the bread when the crowd he fed
On the grassy mountainside.

He borrowed the dish of broken fish
With which he satisfied. *Refrain*

He borrowed a ship in which to sit
To teach the multitude;
He borrowed a nest in which to rest;
He had never a home so rude.

He borrowed a room on his way to the tomb,
The Passover lamb to eat.
They borrowed a cave for him a grave;
The borrowed a winding sheet. *Refrain*

Copyright © 1975 by Canticle Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Silence for meditation

THE REPROACHES (*Improperia*)

The Reproaches, an ancient element of this service, represent Christ calling his people to repentance for sin and unbelief. In these words, we Christians hear a strong call to repentance that Jesus addresses to each of us.

First Reproach

M: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.



Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,



Ev - er pa-tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.



All sins you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus!

Second Reproach

M: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over and delivered me to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink. O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.



Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,



Ev - er pa-tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.



All sins you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus!

Third Reproach

M: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.



Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,



Ev - er pa-tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.



All sins you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:



Your peace be with us, O Je - sus!

Silence for meditation

Stand

HYMN

**Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle
Hymn 122**

Please be seated.

M: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

The minister exits the chancel in silence.

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

As you leave, please return this worship folder to the ushers so that we may use it again when we gather for worship on Easter morning.

If you wish to give an offering this evening, you may do so as you leave the sanctuary.

Scripture is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NIV. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Service of Meditation on the Cross of Christ: ©2004 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-702363.

**PART 3:
THE VIGIL OF EASTER
A CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION
AND OUR BAPTISM
APRIL 8, 2007, 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.

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, the paschal candle, held aloft by the minister, all follow in procession into the dark church.

As the procession begins, or at the doors of the nave, the minister pauses and sings:

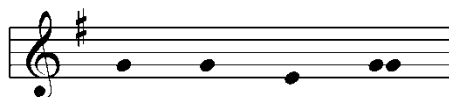


B The light of Christ.

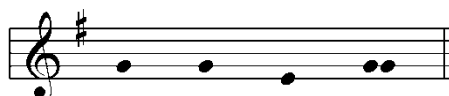


C Thanks be to God.

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.

EXSULTET

*Words and music by Liam Lawton
Arranged by John McCann*

M: Now to the throne of God in exultation,
High heaven's hosts, your proud hosannas sing!
Sound in the height the trumpet of salvation,
Waking the day to greet its Lord and King!

Re - joice, re - joice,
gone for-ev-er is the night! Re - joice, re -
joyce, ris - en is the Lord of light!

M: Now let the earth be filled with songs of gladness!
Christ is our Dawn, and banished is our night!
Now let all tongues acclaim the King of ages,
Rising as Lord of everlasting life!

Re - joice, re - joice,
gone for-ev-er is the night! Re - joice, re -
joyce, ris - en is the Lord of light!

M: Sing in your joy, O holy Church, our Mother:
 Darkest of nights becomes your day of days!
 Now, in the dawn of never ending glory,
 Bring to your Lord the homage of your praise!

Re - joice, re - joice,
 gone for-ev-er is the night! Re - joice, re -
 joice, ris - en is the Lord of light!

M: Bless with your love this feast of light, O Father!
 Shine on the world, O world's true Light, God's Son!
 Touch with your fire, O God the Holy Spirit,
 Tongues to proclaim the triumph Christ has won!

Re - joice, re - joice,
 gone for-ev-er is the night! Re - joice, re -
 joice, ris - en is the Lord of light!

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 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.

C: Amen.

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)

PSALM 136

“Your Love Endures Forever”

Setting by Marty Haugen

M: Give thanks, for God is good,

Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: Give thanks to the God of gods,

Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: Give thanks, give thanks to the Lord of lords,

Your love en - dures, so strong and true, your

love en - dures for ev - er. Your love en - dures, so



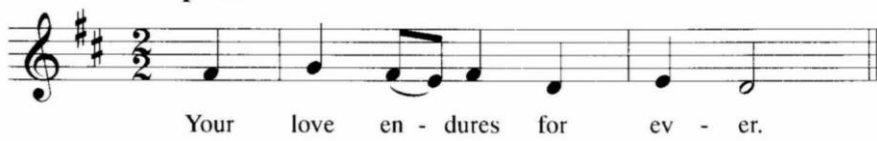
strong and true, your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: You alone do marvelous deeds,



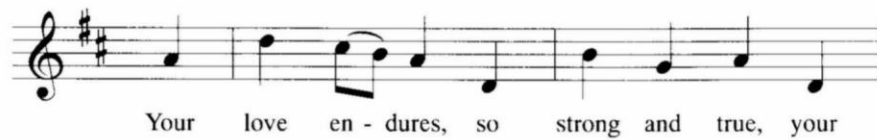
Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: In wisdom you fashioned the skies,



Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: You spread the earth upon the sea,



Your love en - dures, so strong and true, your

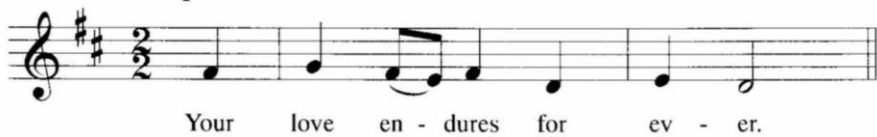


love en - dures for ev - er. Your love en - dures, so



strong and true, your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: It was you who made the great lights,



Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: The sun to shine by day,

Your love en - dures for ev - er.

A musical staff in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/2 time signature. The melody consists of a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4.

M: The moon and stars to shine by night,

Your love en - dures, so strong and true, your

A musical staff in treble clef, key of D major, and 3/2 time signature. The melody consists of a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4.

love en - dures for ev - er. Your love en - dures, so

A musical staff in treble clef, key of D major, and 3/2 time signature. The melody consists of a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4.

strong and true, your love en - dures for ev - er.

A musical staff in treble clef, key of D major, and 3/2 time signature. The melody consists of a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4.

M: You have set your people free,

Your love en - dures for ev - er.

A musical staff in treble clef, key of D major, and 3/2 time signature. The melody consists of a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4.

M: From slavery to liberty,

Your love en - dures for ev - er.

A musical staff in treble clef, key of D major, and 3/2 time signature. The melody consists of a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4.

M: You split the sea in two,

Your love en - dures for ev - er.

A musical staff in treble clef, key of D major, and 3/2 time signature. The melody consists of a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4.

M: Led Israel safely through,




Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: While Pharaoh's ranks were drowned,



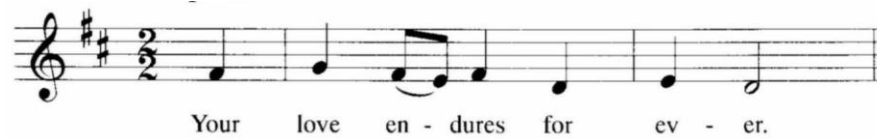
Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: They crossed to solid ground,



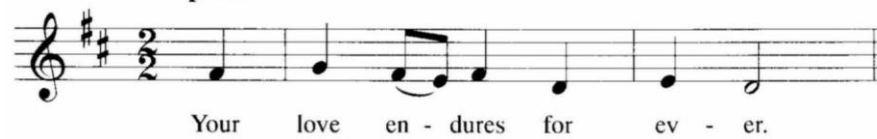
Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: And by your mighty hand,



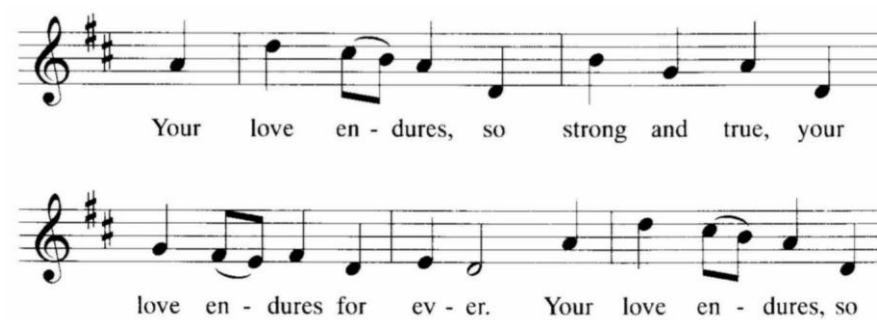
Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: You led your chosen band,



Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: From desert to the Promised Land,



Your love en - dures, so strong and true, your
love en - dures for ev - er. Your love en - dures, so

strong and true, your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: You bring us from death to life,

Your love en - dures for ev - er.

M: Give food to all that lives,

Your love en - dures for ev - er.

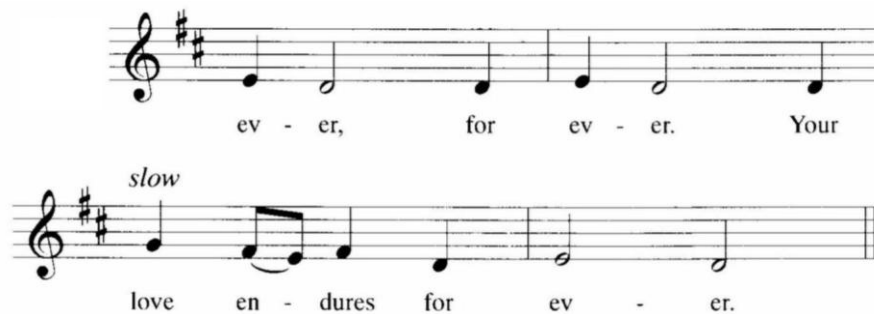
M: Sing praise, sing praise to the God of all,

Your love en - dures, so strong and true, your

love en - dures for ev - er. Your love en - dures, so

strong and true, your love en - dures for

Please turn the page to complete the song...



Copyright © 1998 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-702363.

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.

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)

PSALM 16

“My Inheritance”

Setting by Felix Goebel-Komala

M: You are, O God, my inheritance; I have all I need.

You are, O God, my inheritance; I have all I need.



You are, O God, my in - her - it - ance;



I have all I need. You are, O God, my in -



her - it - ance; I have all I need.

M: I take shelter in you, O God; my refuge and fortress; my allotted portion and cup; you alone are my joy, you alone are my joy.



You are, O God, my in - her - it - ance;

I have all I need. You are, O God, my in -

her - it - ance; I have all I need.

M: Guide my journey through fire and strife; prompt my heart in the darkness. You always are before me, O God; ever steadfast your way, ever steadfast your way.

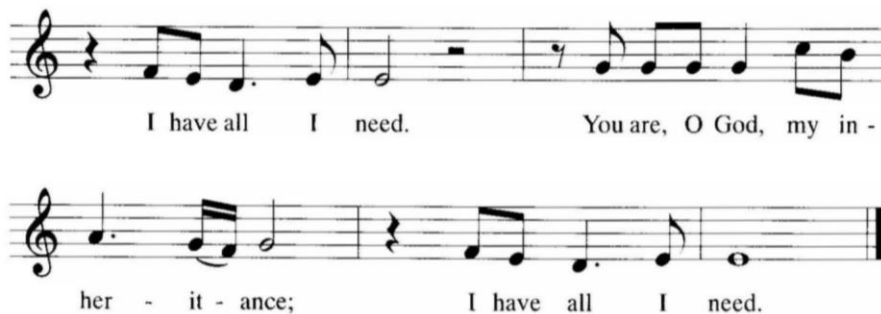
You are, O God, my in - her - it - ance;

I have all I need. You are, O God, my in -

her - it - ance; I have all I need.

M: You will show me the path to life; lead me onward to heaven. I'll delight with the fullness of joy in your presence forever, in your presence forever.

You are, O God, my in - her - it - ance;



Copyright © 1994,1996 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-702363.

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)

EXODUS 15

Song of Moses
Setting by Scott Soper

Cantor/All repeat



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

Cantor/All repeat



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

M: 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!

Cantor/All repeat



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

Cantor/All repeat



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

M: The brave and 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!

Cantor/All repeat



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

Cantor/All repeat



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

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

Cantor/All repeat



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



Copyright © 1997 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-702363.

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)

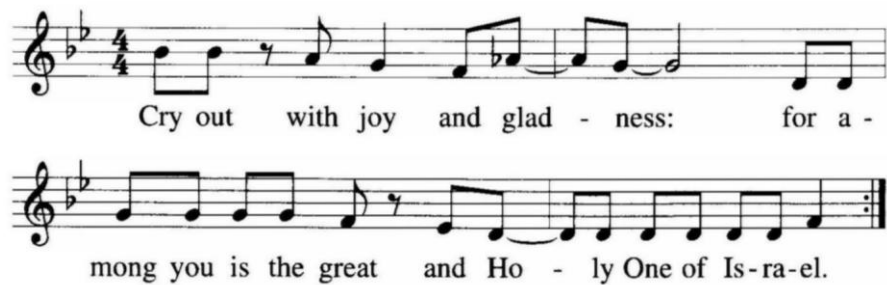
ISAIAH 12

“Cry Out with Joy and Gladness”

Setting by Leon C. Roberts

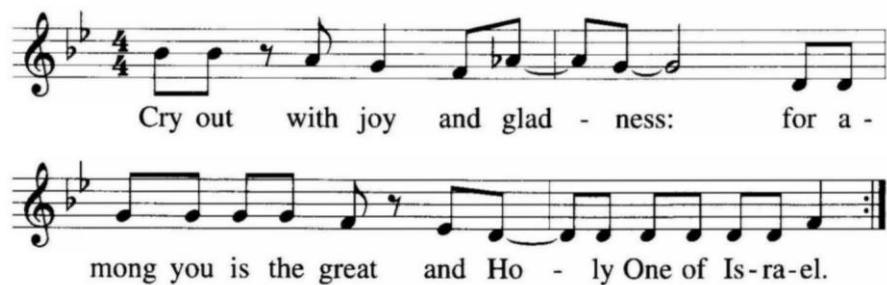
M: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.
 Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

M: God indeed is my Savior; I am confident and unafraid, unafraid. My strength and courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.



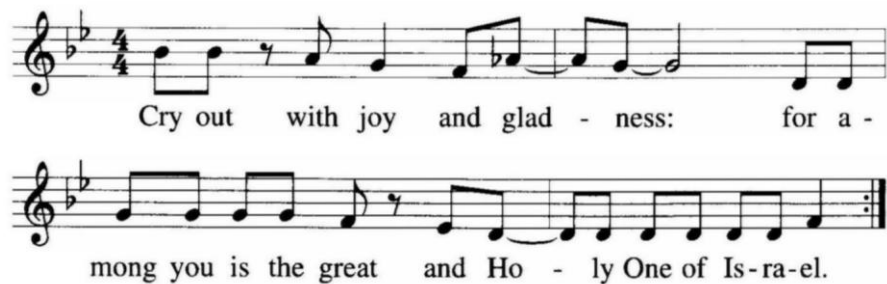
Cry out with joy and glad - ness: for a -
mong you is the great and Ho - ly One of Is-ra-el.

M: Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds: proclaim how exalted is his name, exalted is his name.



Cry out with joy and glad - ness: for a -
mong you is the great and Ho - ly One of Is-ra-el.

M: Sing praise to God for his glorious achievement; let this be known through all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in the midst is the Holy One of Israel!



Cry out with joy and glad - ness: for a -
mong you is the great and Ho - ly One of Is-ra-el.

Copyright © 1997 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-702363.

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.

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.”

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

“Up From the Waters”

Words and music by Marty Haugen

M: Up from the waters God has claimed you, up from the waters, child of light.
Praise to the One who called and named you up from the waters into life.

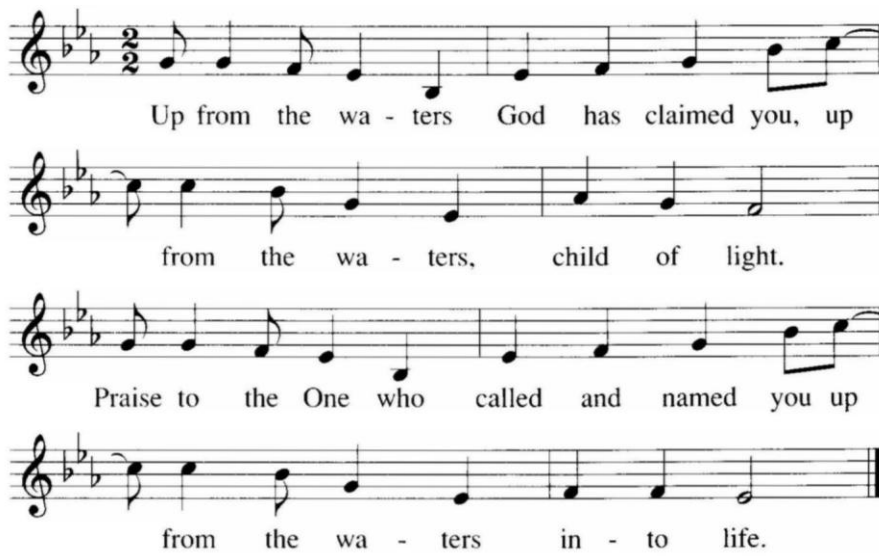
Up from the wa - ters God has claimed you, up
from the wa - ters, child of light.
Praise to the One who called and named you up
from the wa - ters in - to life.

M: Always proclaim the wonderful story:

Up from the wa - ters, child of light.

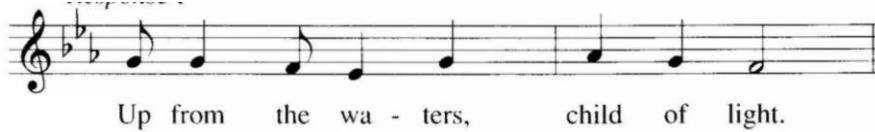
M: How you were raised from death into glory:

Up from the wa - ters in - to life.



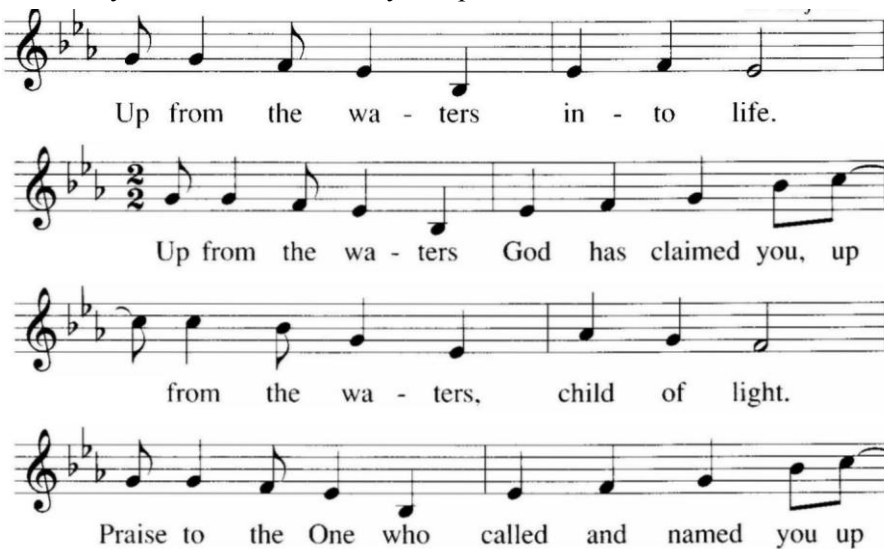
Up from the wa - ters God has claimed you, up
 from the wa - ters, child of light.
 Praise to the One who called and named you up
 from the wa - ters in - to life.

M: Now you have crossed the River of Jordan:



Up from the wa - ters, child of light.

M: Now you behold God's mercy and pardon:



Up from the wa - ters in - to life.
 Up from the wa - ters God has claimed you, up
 from the wa - ters, child of light.
 Praise to the One who called and named you up

from the wa - ters in - to life.

M: No more shall sin have power to hold you:

Up from the wa - ters, child of light.

M: Now let the grace of Jesus enfold you:

Up from the wa - ters in - to life.

Up from the wa - ters God has claimed you, up

from the wa - ters, child of light.

Praise to the One who called and named you up

from the wa - ters in - to life.

M: Come now and praise the God of the living:

Up from the wa - ters, child of light.

M: Now let your song ring out with thanksgiving:

Up from the wa - ters in - to life.

Up from the wa - ters God has claimed you, up
from the wa - ters, child of light.

Praise to the One who called and named you up
from the wa - ters in - to life.

M: Water of life and grace and salvation:

Up from the wa - ters, child of light.

M: Water that heals the heart of creation:

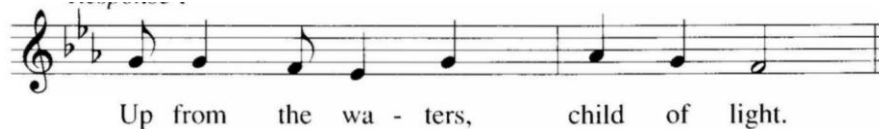
Up from the wa - ters in - to life.

Up from the wa - ters God has claimed you, up



from the wa - ters, child of light.
 Praise to the One who called and named you up
 from the wa - ters in - to life.

M: This is the life that rains down from heaven:



Up from the wa - ters, child of light.

M: This is the new life Jesus has given:



Up from the wa - ters in - to life.
 Up from the wa - ters God has claimed you, up
 from the wa - ters, child of light.
 Praise to the One who called and named you up
 from the wa - ters in - to life.

Copyright © 1998 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-702363.

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!

Refrain

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

M: 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.

Refrain

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

GOSPEL

Luke 24:1-12

The resurrection of Jesus.

The Gospel is read from the midst of the congregation.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. (NIV)

After the Gospel, the Minister will say:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Refrain

The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of three phrases of "Al-le-lu-ia!". The first phrase starts on a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The second phrase starts on a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, with a slur over the last three notes. The third phrase starts on a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, with a slur over the last three notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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, 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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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

The musical score is written on a single staff in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Hymn 152

Christ the Lord is Risen Today: Alleluia

Hymn 150

THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

SONG OF SIMEON (*Nunc Dimittis*)

[C] 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.

Silent prayer.

Scripture is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NIV. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Order of Service for the Vigil of Easter: Copyright © 2002 and 2004 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-702363.



Many thanks to the many people who worked so hard to make this service possible.

We invite all of you to continue your celebration of Jesus' resurrection with us throughout the rest of this morning.

Easter breakfast: 9:00 A.M. in our fellowship hall.

Easter festival service: 10:30 A.M. in the church sanctuary.

May the peace and joy of our Lord's resurrection fill you, strengthen you, cheer you, and carry you today, tomorrow, and forever!

